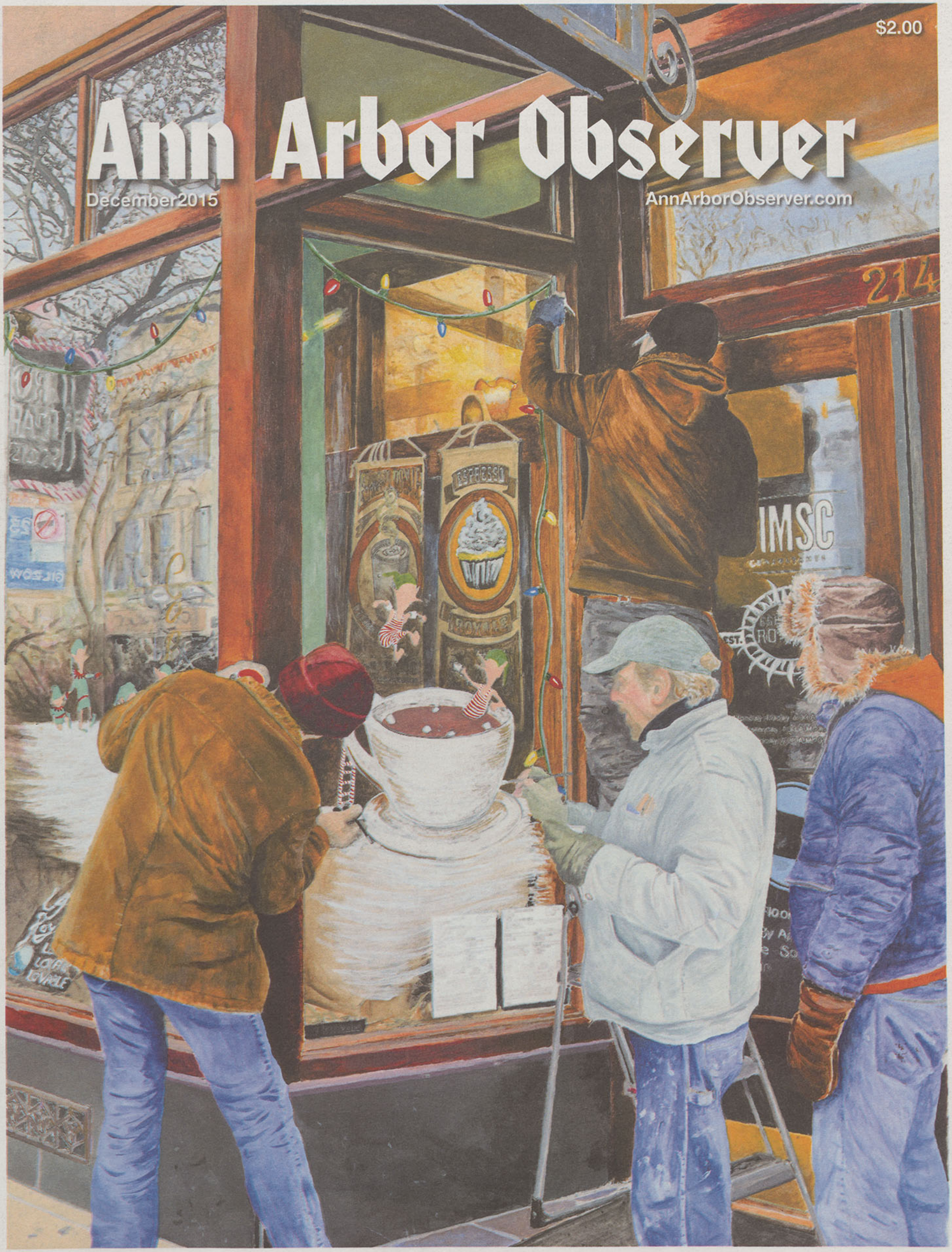
Ann Arbor Observer

December2015

AnnArborObserver.com

$2.00



One of the most interesting things about this building is how custom-fit it seems for our modern day convenience. The ample size of our drive-through barn just happens to accommodate SUV's and the UPS truck, though it was designed for horse and buggy in 1906.

In 2015 we continue to offer wood, hay, grain and seeds because they remain staples of life. Bushel baskets, corn brooms, bird seed, mouse traps, canning jars, stoneware pickling crocks, clay pots, leather gloves and cast iron skillets are still in stock.

Ann Arbor's landscape has changed over the years, but the common thread of useful, quality goods offered at a fair price for the community in which we work and live is as strong today as it was for the Hertlers.

We've pulled our own weight and endured some tough times through the decades. But we are "healthy as a horse." We still have the horse stalls to prove it!

Kelley

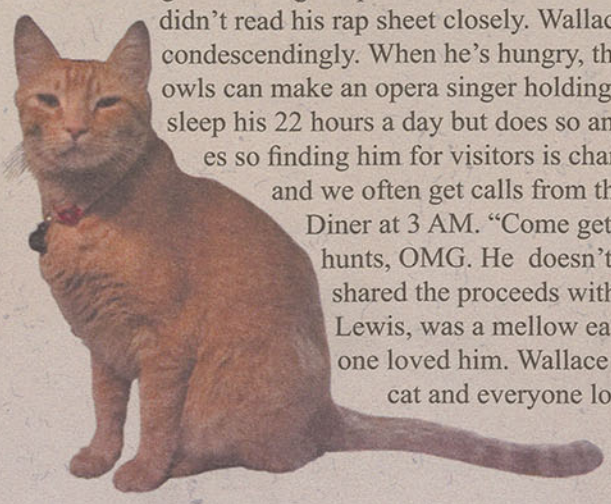
Local and Healthy as a Horse!

Mark's Corner

Good Cat/Bad Cat

CHRISTMAS HOURS
START MON. DEC. 7:
MON.-SAT. 8 - 8 PM,
SUN. 13 & 20, 11-6

Wallace, our new orange store cat, came to us from the Humane Society last March, after two years in the slammer including once being adopted out and then returned for unsuitability. We didn't read his rap sheet closely. Wallace accepts attention but condescendingly. When he's hungry, the duration of his meowls can make an opera singer holding C jealous. Wallace does sleep his 22 hours a day but does so any which-where he pleases so finding him for visitors is chancy. At night he wanders and we often get calls from the bars or the Fleetwood Diner at 3 AM. "Come get your cat". And when he hunts, OMG. He doesn't feel fulfilled until he has shared the proceeds with all of us. Our old cat, Lewis, was a mellow easy-going cat, and everyone loved him. Wallace is a bad and demanding cat and everyone loves him too.



Oh, Christmas Trees!

Bring the best of the winter season indoors with our large selection of fresh Christmas trees, wreaths and greens. Their natural beauty will last well into the New Year. Wander through our Winter Garden to enjoy the variety of fragrance, texture and fresh healthy green of Douglas firs, long lasting Nobles and smooth needled Frasers, from 3 to 9 feet. We will give your tree a fresh cut and load it into your car. And share some roasted chestnuts for the ride home.

Midnight Madness
Friday, Dec. 4th

20% Off All Cookware

Don't miss our annual **COOKWARE SALE**, the beloved **PETTING ZOO** and a surprise musical **GUEST PERFORMANCE**. Ornaments, greens and Christimas trees will fill the store, the barn, the Winter Garden and sparkle till the magical stroke of Midnight.

Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5th
from 10:00-1:00

Join us for our annual neighborhood **CHRISTMAS PARTY** complete with the **REAL SANTA** and a lively performance by the **COMMUNITY HIGH JAZZ BAND**. Try succulent samples of smoked turkey, Grandma Mooberry's cranberry salad, hot cider and eggnog and oranges for the kids. Immerse yourself in the season, 'tis upon us!

DOWNTOWN HOME & GARDEN

www.downtownhomeandgarden.com

210 S. Ashley St., Ann Arbor 734 662-8122 Mon-Sat 7:30-7, Sun 11-5

eve

Re-Introducing eve

@the Bell Tower Hotel Autumn 2015

So looking forward to seeing you here!

300 S. Thayer St. :: Ann Arbor, MI 48104 :: p 734.222.0711 :: info@everestaurant.com

Building Homes One Dream at a Time!

WE CAN USE YOUR PLANS OR OURS!

- Reducing Energy Costs by 75% (AND CAN PROVE IT!)
- ICF (Insulating Concrete Walls), Steel Floor Joists, Wall Studs, Roof Trusses, Concrete Sub-Floors.
- Mold, Insect, Sound, Radon, Fire, & Tornado Resistant.

Let US make your Energy Efficient dream home a reality!

Prime building sites (some water front) available in Ann Arbor, Birmingham, & Bloomfield Hills.

ENERGY EFFICIENT
HEALTHY HOMES

248.884.7960

Energyefficienticf.com

Rarely in a lifetime does an opportunity such as this present itself. ***NEVER BEFORE ON THE MARKET.***

Beautiful lakefront, Ann Arbor address and schools, Superior Township taxes - the best of all worlds! Swimming, canoeing, ice sailing, fishing, and a southern exposure. Spring fed lake. To view this spectacular site, call:

Hulya Erol

Keller Williams

248.760.0117

GIFT CARDS NOW AVAILABLE

GIVE A GIFT WITH SOME IMPACT

Have a friend or a loved one who could use a more action-packed workout? Maybe a coworker who's addicted to exhilaration—and exhaustion? Help them push their limits and reach a new fitness peak. Give them a TITLE Boxing Club Gift Card. After all, there's no better gift than helping someone **earn their TITLE**.

2115 W Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor, MI | (734) 619.0189 | facebook.com/TITLEBoxingClubAnnArbor

TITLE® BOXING CLUB

TITLEBoxingClub.com

THANK YOU

TO **OUR CLIENTS** FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR IN HELPING MAKE THIS OUR **15TH YEAR** IN THE RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE BUSINESS!

OUR GROWING TEAM DOES MORE FROM OUR NEW HOME AT COLDWELL BANKER WEIR MANUEL TO CAPITALIZE ON YOUR INTENTIONS FOR BUYING OR SELLING IN TODAY'S HIGHLY PROFITABLE MARKET.

- **PAT ANDERSON,** Realtor®
- **ANN ARBAUGH,** Realtor®
- **LAURA BENNETT,** Realtor®
- **GUILLERMO FLEURQUIN,** Realtor®
- **SCOTT POWERS,** Realtor®
- **JULIE REIFF,** Realtor®
- **CÉCILE ROCK,** Office Manager
- **SARAH TAKACS,** Marketing Manager
- **DAWN YERKES,** Director of Operations

ALEX MILSHTEYN, CRS, GRI, ABR

(734) 417-3560 | alex@alexmi.com | www.alexmi.com
Associate Broker | Coldwell Banker Weir Manuel
305 E. Eisenhower Pkwy, Suite 100 | Ann Arbor, MI 48108

COLDWELL BANKER
WEIR MANUEL

An exclusive affiliate of Coldwell Banker Previews International

LINCOLN

WISH LIST

SALES EVENT

WISHES DO COME TRUE.

THE LINCOLN WISH LIST EVENT IS ON.

SESI LINCOLN

LINCOLN

FROM OUR FAMILY
TO YOURS. SINCE 1946.

3990 Jackson Road, An n Arbor, MI 48103
SesiLincoln.com (734) 668-6100

NORTHBROOKE

CUSTOM HOMES WITH EXCEPTIONAL SERENITY

A slice of the countryside, hugged by 66 acres of nature preserves and just outside the city of Ann Arbor. Enjoy peaceful country living and the nearby protected woodlands all while remaining just minutes from one of America's highest rated cities, featuring renowned educational opportunities and plentiful amenities. Select your homesite and begin custom designing your dream home.

Northbrooke is located on Westbrooke Circle South, Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Two exceptional builders, one great community | Homes from the $700s

CRANBROOK CUSTOM • HOMES

Model home and sales information center located at Montcaret
19085 Chaumont Way, Northville, MI 48167

Open Saturday-Wednesday 11-5
or by Appointment

248.266.2795 | CranbrookCustomHomes.com

PINNACLE HOMES

1668 S. Telegraph Road
Suite 200
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

734.516.7253 | Pinnaclehomes.com

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Ann Arbor Observer

AnnArborObserver.com

Publisher
Patricia Garcia

Editor
John Hilton

Deputy Editor
James M. Manheim

Assistant Editor
Renee McPhail

Editorial Assistants
Michael Betzold • Laura Bien • Shelley Daily
Tracy Janevic • Anita LeBlanc • Sarah Rigg
Rivan Stinson

Profiles Editor
Eve Silberman

Calendar Editor
Katie Whitney

Assistant Calendar Editor
John Hinchey

Webmaster
Valerie Mates

Writers
arwulf arwulf • Tim Athan • Sally Bjork
Sally Wright Day • Patrick Dunn • Bob & Jorja Feldman
Jay Forstner • Lee Lawrence • Anita LeBlanc
James Leonard • M.B. Lewis • Piotr Michalowski
Sally Mitani • Cynthia Furlong Reynolds • Jan Schlain
Dick Siegel • Sandor Slomovits • Greg Stejskal
Matt Thompson • Ilene Wolff

Senior Photographer
J. Adrian Wylie

Photographers
Mark Bialek • Sally Bjork • Bob & Jorja Feldman

Artists
John Copley • Steve Gilzow • Tabitha Walters

Creative Director
Caron Valentine-Marsh

Design & Production
Gabe Clark • LR Nuñez • Tabitha Walters

Advertising Director
Courtney Sidor

Senior Advertising Executives
Julie McCrackin Cole • Vikki Enos

Advertising Executive
Sarah McCartan

Business Manager
Jean Morgan

Administrative Assistant
Amber Lamkin

Circulation Manager
Melissa Seifferlein

online at AnnArborObserver.com:
Daily events calendar
Observer articles archive
Everyone's a Critic culture blog

The Ann Arbor Observer (ISSN #0192–5717) is published thirteen times a year, once each month plus a special issue in August (the City Guide), by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Telephone: (734) 769–3175. USPS #454–470. Member Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI.

Subscriptions: $20 for one year, $35 for two years (all paid subscriptions include priority web access). Write to the Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Telephone (734) 769–3175. Fax (734) 769–3375. Email: subscribe@aaobserver.com

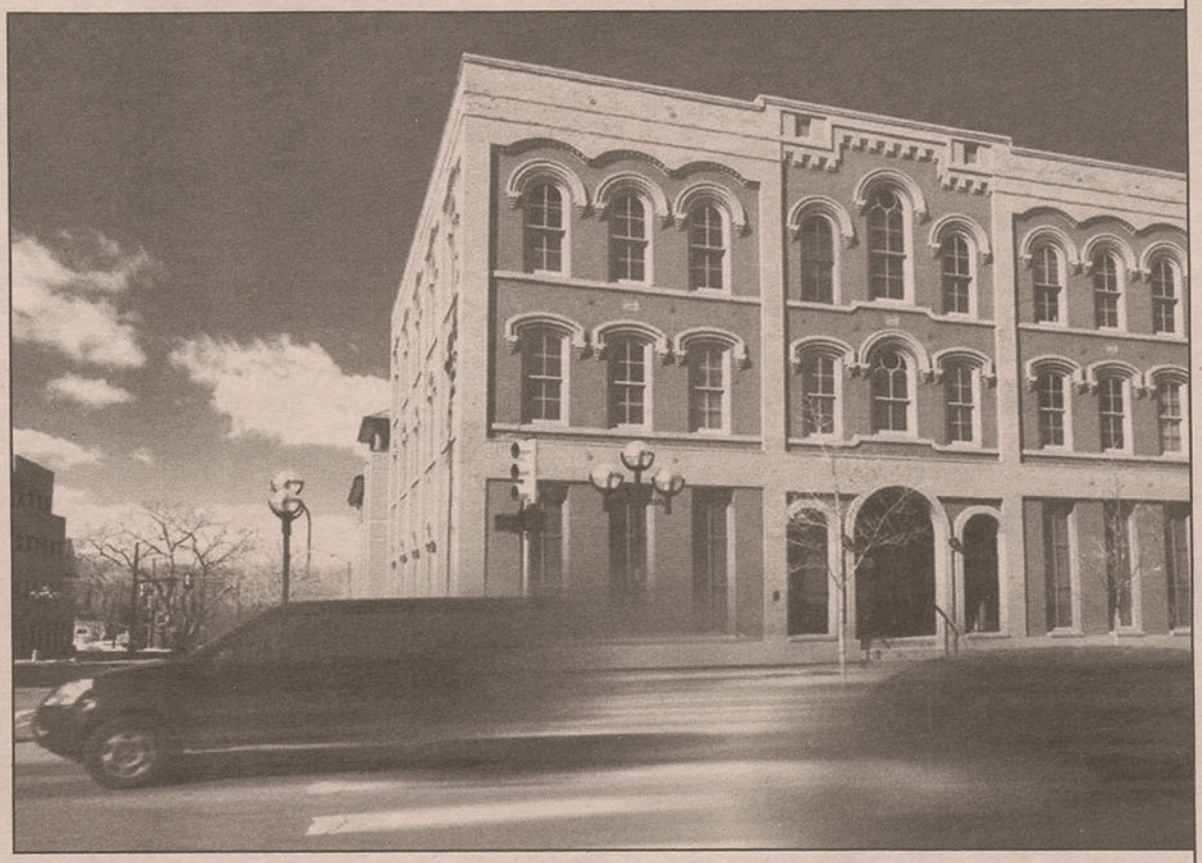
Manuscripts: The Observer welcomes freelance material. Send manuscripts to Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Email: Hilton@aaobserver.com

Postmaster: Send address changes to Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

©2015 by the Ann Arbor Observer Company. All rights reserved. No portion of the Ann Arbor Observer may be reproduced without permission of the publisher.

Printed on recycled paper.

Don't just drive by...



We welcome you at the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation because we are ***by*** **the community, *for* the community.**

More than 50 years ago, citizens established the foundation as a permanent source of community capital and we have since granted out nearly $40 million to local nonprofits.

We can do more to support Washtenaw County through ongoing contributions from our citizens.

Call, explore online, or stop in to learn how you can make an investment in your community.

We offer many easy ways to create a lasting legacy. Permanent named funds begin at $5,000.

So do more than drive by — we're open through the holidays to serve all your year-end charitable needs!

Ann Arbor Area
Community Foundation

301 North Main Street, Ste 300
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-663-0401

aaacf.org

Everything you need for the holidays

From Achatz to Zoup, all at one stop

ACHATZ PIE CO. • ALLSTATE INSURANCE • ATI PHYSICAL THERAPY • BANK OF ANN ARBOR • BORICS HAIRCARE DOMINO'S PIZZA
ESPRESSO ROYALE • EXCEL DENTAL • FEDEX KINKO'S • FRAMES UNLIMITED • GNC • JIMMY JOHN'S • MASSAGE ENVY
ORANGE LEAF FROZEN YOGURT • PET SUPPLIES PLUS • BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES SNYDER & COMPANY
THE KROGER COMPANY • TORTOISE AND HARE, INC. • U OF M CREDIT UNION • ZOUP FRESH SOUP COMPANY

Traver Village

Plymouth Road (at Nixon), Ann Arbor | (734) 994-5050

Ann Arbor Observer

December 2015 vol. 40 • no. 4

Cover: The Novemberistas at Espresso Royale: David Zinn, John Copley, Danijel Matanic, and Narooz Soliman. Acrylic and gouache painting by Steve Gilzow.

features

35 **Mr. Congeniality**
James Leonard

39 **Obamacare in Ann Arbor**
Ilene Wolff

43 **Feeding the Starving Student** *Anita LeBlanc*

47 **Midlife Crisis**
Eve Silberman

51 **Leaving the Vineyard**
James Leonard

departments

11 **Up Front**
James Leonard, Anita LeBlanc, James Leonard, Matt Thompson

13 **Inside Ann Arbor**
Tim Athan, Patrick Dunn, James Leonard, Cynthia Furlong Reynolds, Jan Schlain

23 **Outside**
Bob & Jorja Feldman

25 **Crime Map**

27 **Ann Arborites**
Eve Silberman

31 **My Town**
Cynthia Furlong Reynolds, Dick Siegel, Greg Stejskal

63 **Restaurant Reviews**
Back2Roots Bistro *M.B. Lewis*
Holiday shopping *Lee Lawrence*

67 **Marketplace Changes**
Sally Mitani

111 **Back Page**
Sally Bjork, Jay Forstner

what's happening

74 **Music at Nightspots**
John Hinchey
Shows at the Ark, the Blind Pig, and more, plus a review of the Andy Adamson Quartet.

77 **Events**
Katie Whitney & John Hinchey
Daily events in Ann Arbor during December, plus listings of Films, p. 89, including a review of John Waters' *Pecker;* new exhibits at local Galleries, p. 97, with a look at UMMA's Tyree Guyton show; and reviews of monster guitarist Peter Mulvey, the Takacs Quartet, and Detroit jazz pianist Michael Malis.

112 **Events at a Glance**

advertising sections

53 **Celebrate the Season: The Observer's Holiday Guide**
105 **Real Estate Section / Home Sales Map**
104 **Classifieds** 110 **Services & Advertiser Index**

The spring *market* starts now.

Considering a spring move? Prepared homes sell quickly and bring higher offers. Let me help you prepare ***your*** home today to ensure an effortless sale.

Contact me today for a free in-home evaluation and an edge on the market!

elizabeth brien

teamElizabeth brien
Integrity, Service & Experience
Reinhart
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors
734-665-0300

office 734-669-5989
cell 734-645-4444
BrienTeam@ElizabethBrien.com
www.ElizabethBrien.com

celebrate the season at KERRYTOWN®

MARKET & SHOPS

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Friday, Dec 4
open 'til Midnight!

A fun-filled evening of shopping and dining with great holiday sales throughout the locally-owned stores. Enjoy live music featuring the folk stylings of Dave Sharp's Ann Arbor based band: KLEZMEPHONIC. Strolling carolers and more!

FUSTINI'S SCHOOL OF COOKING

Get together with family & friends during this holiday season at Fustini's School of Cooking! We'll do all the cooking & the clean up!

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2

GUEST CHEF NIKOLAS BARDT • 6pm–8pm $49
Baked Sweet Potato "Fries" with Coconut Aioli, Vegetarian Taco with a Homemade Chipotle Mayonnaise, Mango and Pineapple Glazed Shrimp Skewers, Ginger Honey Marinated Flank Steak, Baked Pumpkin Doughnut.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

HOLIDAY BRUNCH • 12pm–2pm $49
Roasted Vegetable Tartlet, Duck and Waffles, Poached Salmon with Ravigote Sauce, Farfalle in Garlic Cream Sauce, Apple Crumble.

CENTER PLATE LAMB • 6pm–8pm $59
Lemon, Leek and Lamb Triangles, Moussaka, Lollipops with Fig and Brie, Lamb Kefka, Grilled Leg of Lamb.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

THE SCIENCE OF OLIVE OIL INTERACTIVE CLASS
12pm–2pm $30
Dipping, Sautéing, Flavoring, Using as an ingredient, Health Benefits, History.

JACQUE PEPIN CLASSICAL FRENCH CUISINE
6pm–8pm $59
"Le Methode", "La Technique", "Jacques and Julia", "Everyday Cooking", "Jacques and Claudine".

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16

GUEST CHEF NIKOLAS BARDT • 6pm–8pm $49
Fresh Tomato Bruschetta on Homemade Baguette, Fall Vegetable Pizza, Roasted Wild Alaskan Salmon with Lemon Caper Sauce, Brined and Smoked Pork Tenderloin with Apple Chutney, Berries Jubilee with Homemade Whipped Cream.

Please call 734-213-1110 or email jill@fustinis.com for reservations.

Festive Fridays!

STORES ARE OPEN LATE ON FRIDAYS IN DECEMBER!

Kerrytown Merchants have extended holiday hours and will be open late on Fridays!
December 4th, open 'til Midnight!
December 11th and 18th open 'til 8pm!
Check out www.kerrytown.com for a full list of our holiday hours, or see below.

KERRYTOWN KINDLEFEST

Friday, December 4th 6–10pm
The Farmers Market becomes a winter wonderland with local artisans, German brats, beer, smores, HEATED TENT! & much more.

MERRY TUBACHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec 6th, 2pm
Its 42nd year, and the 4th year in the Kerrytown neighborhood. This annual event is performed all over the US where tuba and euphonium players of all ages gather to perform traditional Christmas carols. Audience participation encouraged!

SANTA SATURDAYS

Dec 5, 12, & 19,
10am – 2pm
Santa visits Kerrytown! Susan K. Campbell, creator of the Humans of Ann Arbor Project, will be snapping photos (or bring your own camera.) Come back the following week and pick up your free photo on one of the holiday trees in Kerrytown!

TOYS FOR TOTS

Kerrytown Market & Shops is proud to support the Toys for Tots. Drop-off station located on the 2nd floor by Mudpuddles.

OVER 20 LOCALLY OWNED SHOPS AND BUSINESSES

KID STUFF

Mudpuddles
Creative and unique toys for kids
(734) 662-0022

WOMENS APPAREL

V2V
Women's high-end fashion, bridalwear & home décor
(734) 665-9910

SPECIALTY FOODS

FUSTINI'S
Local & imported oils and vinegars
(734) 213-1110

Spice Merchants
Spices, dried herbs and teas from around the world
(734) 332-5500

SERVICES

ENCORE STUDIO
Salon with excellence in hair, skin and nails
(734) 663-9344

SPARROW
Personalized fitness training to fit your needs
(734) 761-8175

Zingerman's EVENTS on fourth
Catering and event space
(734) 663-3400

GIFTS AND TREASURES

Spun
Yarn, Tools, Classes, Community
spunannarbor.com

FOUND
An unexpected collection
(734) 302-3060

Hollander's
Decorative papers & bookbinding supplies
(734) 741-7531

Princess DESIGNS
Jewelry and Rock Shop
(734) 663-2628

16 HANDS
Handcrafted. Heartfelt.
(734) 761-1110

MARKETS & EATERIES

DURHAM'S Tracklements
New York Times—Best of the Best Holiday Mail Order Gifts in 20 Years
(734) 930-6642

everydaywines
Wines from around the world, at everyday prices
(734) 827-WINE

kosmo deli
Tasty, affordable American & Korean fare
(734) 668-4070

THE LUNCH ROOM
Delectable vegan dining
(734) 224-8859

MONAHAN'S
Nationally acclaimed fish, seafood market & lunch counter
(734) 662-5118

Sparrow Market
Deli counter, fresh produce, groceries homemade sausages, grass-fed beef & more
(734) 761-8175

SWEETWATERS.
Coffee, teas and pastries
(734) 622-0084

BUSINESSES

FarmLogs
FarmLogs uses data science and software to improve agriculture
admin@farmlogs.com

PURE VISIBILITY
Digital Marketing Experts
(888) 384-9062

Ring the Bells

play our chime
Every Saturday
10:30am to 11am,
Wednesday and Friday
12pm to 12:30pm

mother goose storytime
Sunday, December 6th
at 2pm in Hollander's

mother goose storytime — Every First Sunday — 2pm at Hollander's

407 N. FIFTH AVE. | WWW.KERRYTOWN.COM | 734.662.5008

Normal Hours for Second Floor Merchants: M-F* 10am-6pm (*9am on WED) | SAT 9am-6pm | SUN 11am-5pm

Normal Hours for Market: M-F 8am-7pm | SAT 7am-6pm | SUN 9am-6pm

Holiday Hours for the Shops begin on Friday, Nov. 27:

M -Th* 10am - 7pm | F 10am - 8pm | SAT 9am - 6pm | SUN 11am - 6pm

Trustee turnover: Judging by their expressions, Pam Horiszny shocked most of her fellow Washtenaw Community College trustees when she announced her resignation at their September board meeting. Declaring that "internal union relations have never been worse in my time," Horiszny charged that "organized labor's end goal is removing [president Rose] Bellanca from office."

Chief faculty union negotiator David Fitzpatrick agrees. While that wasn't his goal before the union voted no confidence in Bellanca's leadership last year, he says, "It certainly is now. She needs to go."

That tension was evident even in the choice of Horiszny's replacement. When board chair Rick Landau called for the vote at the October meeting, members split down the middle. Landau and two other veteran trustees wanted Alex Milshteyn, a Realtor who chairs the board of WCC's Washtenaw Technical Middle College and ran unsuccessfully for trustee last year. The three trustees elected last year with the union's backing voted for Dilip Das, the U-M's assistant vice provost for equity, inclusion, and academic affairs.

When Landau called the vote again, it split again. Then, in another surprising move, Landau and trustee Stephen Gill switched their votes to Das.

"I was really impressed," says Das of Landau's switch. "He asked them to change, and, when nobody did, he changed. That's a mark of a good leader."

The soft-spoken academic says he learned about the opening online—"I had not met any board members before"—and was surprised to be chosen: "The other candidate had a lot going for him." New trustee and former faculty union president Ruth Hatcher says she voted for Das because "he has a lot of experience in higher ed and a lot of experience in the state. Alex brings a whole different set of tools, but Dr. Das has what we need now."

Das says his top priority is keeping the school affordable, noting that 15 percent of county residents live in poverty (see "Feeding the Starving Student," p. 43). With understandable caution, he refrains from commenting on the tension between the college's faculty and its president, saying only, "I've heard there's been more communication, and that's always good."

Chip & Chuck: Ann Arbor's Fifth Ward is now represented solely by councilmembers named Charles. Conveniently, both are known by other names—but that's not the end of the coincidences.

"Our birthdays are just a few days apart," emails two-term rep Chuck Warpehoski. "Mine is March 26, 1978."

"My birthday is March 23rd, 1970," emails newly elected Chip Smith, "the same day as the recently deceased Moses Malone (and Chaka Khan!)."

"My parents didn't want me to be nicknamed 'Chuck,'" Warpehoski continues, "but I was very ticklish and would chuckle when tickled. Hence 'Chuckie' and then 'Chuck.'"

"I've always gone by 'Chip,'" says Smith. Because his full name is Charles F. Smith Jr., he's a "chip off the old block."

Any other coincidences? "Our kids are about the same age," writes Warpehoski, "and for a while his daughter and my son were in the same daycare class," at Annie's Children's Center in Kerrytown.

"We both also like to drink good beer," Smith adds. And Warpehoski has yet one more: "If you wanted to reach, he likes to fish and I used to work at a bait shop."

Treasure hunters: Collectors and bargain hunters have roamed the aisles of Treasure Mart for decades, seeking the perfect oak sideboard or mid-century modern table. But what happens to the stuff that nobody buys? "If it's merchandise that hasn't sold for a long time or merchandise that we're having second thoughts about accepting, we move it out," says Elaine Johns, owner of the Detroit St. consignment shop. "For furniture or more expensive items, we call consignors and ask if they want to pick it up or recycle. A lot of them tell us just to recycle."

So once or twice a month Treasure Mart delivers unsold items to local thrift shops. "We actually have some customers who just come in to periodically check on the T.M. materials we have," emails Jack Middlebrook, manager of Recycle Ann Arbor's ReUse Center. "Usually customers can spot the T.M. materials by the stickers left on them … most of the merchandise doesn't stay in the store long enough to warrant removing the T.M. stickers."

The ReUse Center gets the lion's share, but Habitat for Humanity ReStore, the Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop, Kiwanis Thrift Sale, and the ShareHouse have also received Treasure Mart castoffs. They're not easy to find there, because those stores generally remove prior store and garage sale labels. But some do slip through—a Treasure Mart sticker was recently spotted on a shelving unit at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale West.

Finding Santa: "When it comes to Santa," says Judy Noerr, "we don't measure his waist, we measure his heart." Through her Colorado-based company, Noerr provides Santas (and, in season, Easter Bunnies) to hundreds of shopping centers around the country, including Briarwood in Ann Arbor.

Gone are the days when beard-pulling kids expose imposters—all of Noerr's Santas have real beards. Briarwood's is perfectly cast for the part with a snowy white beard, rosy cheeks, and a heart of gold.

The jolly man is on the job from the first week of November through December 24. "The earlier the better," he advises by telephone. "The lines grow longer closer to Christmas."

Santa knows. He's been a mall Santa for ten years, at Briarwood for four—preceded by a six-year stint in the Lansing area.

It all started when his wife made him a Santa suit. About the same time, a friend mentioned an opening for a mall Santa. Retired at the time, Santa took on the assignment. He doesn't divulge too much about his off-season activities except to say he's a big football fan. Over the holiday season, he spends every day except Thanksgiving in his chair at Briarwood's center court.

Santa likes to joke around with the kids while hearing their wish lists and posing for photos by Noerr's photographer. He recalls asking one youngster, "So, are you married?" The child answered, "No, and neither is my mom. And my mom and my stepdad aren't married either."

Other moments are more solemn. A few years back, Santa asked one serious little fellow what he wanted for Christmas. The young man answered, "I don't want anything for Christmas. I just want my dad to come back from Iraq." Says Santa, "I got tears in my eyes."

No need to worry, Judy. Briarwood's Santa has a heart. ■

KING'S Keyboard House
since 1961
PIANOS make the HOLIDAYS BETTER!
NOW OPEN SUNDAYS from 1pm to 5pm til 12/31/15
2363 E. Stadium, Ann Arbor | 734.663.3381
{ www.kingskeyboard.com }
DISCOUNT PRICES on NEW and USED GRANDS.
We have upright and digital pianos.
FREE piano classes for adults.
FREE DELIVERY until 12/31/2015.

ILLUSTRATIONS: TABITHA WALTERS

Stephen's Theater at Bach Elementary

NAACP Awards Ceremony

Rick's Run 4 Kids

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Exceptional Education In a Caring Community

AAPS is more than a great school system. It's a close-knit community made up of people who care about education—and each other.

That community-wide caring takes many forms. You can see it in daily classroom interactions and the extra time and effort our teachers devote to their students. You can also see it in the spontaneous service activities and volunteer projects that enliven our schools and enrich our community.

Here are three recent examples of AAPS caring in action:

Stephen's Theater
This past year, Bach Elementary students raised money to build an outdoor amphitheater in memory of their classmate, Stephen Easter—a boy who loved performing and also loved his school. Thanks to their caring and initiative, Bach now has a multipurpose space that can be used as an outdoor classroom, a performance and sporting venue, and a quiet place for spending time with friends.

NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner & Awards Ceremony
Once again, the Ann Arbor Chapter of the NAACP hosted a gala awards ceremony to honor high-achieving students in grades 10 through 12. This year, 168 students were recognized for their 3.2 or higher grade point average.

Rick's Run 4 Kids
This 5K walk-or-run event is dedicated to the memory of Rick Dekeon, longtime physical education teacher and coach at Northside Elementary. Proceeds benefit the Rec & Ed Youth Scholarship Fund. The event carries on the essence of Rick's philosophy: "Learn by having fun and try your best in everything—always."

Exception a+ 1
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
www.a2schools.org
We Care
#WeCareA2Schools Search for Ann Arbor Public Schools

Expensive Election

Jane Lumm won the costliest council race in Ann Arbor history.

Together, Lumm and challenger Sally Hart Petersen spent at least $58,000 battling over Lumm's Second Ward seat (see "The Second Ward War," November). "It's crazy," says Lumm. who served two terms as a Republican in the 1990s and returned to council as an independent in 2011. She says her team raised about $27,000 or $28,000 and "spent everything we raised to get our message out."

Petersen, a Democrat, spent at least $30,000, including $15,000 she and her husband, Tim, contributed themselves. "I have been criticized for self-funding," the challenger acknowledged by email the day after the election. "I've never sent a fund-raising letter. I have spent so much of my time as a Board Member of several non-profits. It feels awkward asking my friends to give money to my campaign while I am also asking them to donate to several worthy non-profits."

Final figures will be released in December, but there's no question that Petersen spent more than any previous candidate. She also had the endorsement of mayor Christopher Taylor (see "Mr. Congeniality," p. 35) and the help of Taylor's 2014 campaign manager, Brad O'Furey (né O'Connor), who encouraged her to run and managed her campaign. Yet she got only 36 percent of the vote.

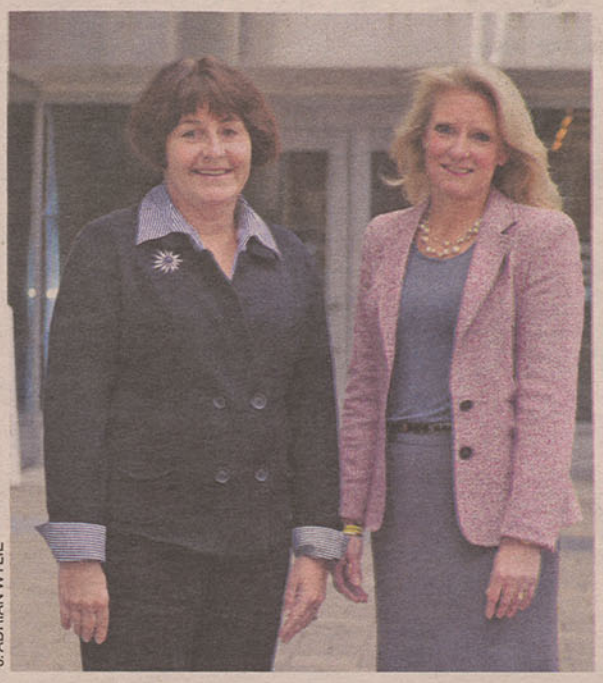
The mayor endorsed four candidates running against his council opponents this year. Two of them—Zach Ackerman in Ward 3 and Chip Smith in Ward 5—defeated incumbents in the August primary, while Fourth Ward rep Jack Eaton successfully defended his seat. All won unopposed in the general election, so Petersen's defeat gives Taylor a .500 batting average.

How big a role did money play in the outcome? "I have no idea," Lumm says in a phone interview. "We did the things we determined we needed to do." Petersen minimizes its importance: "We are seeing more and more that money plays less of a part in local elections than grass roots efforts," she writes.

Petersen also downplays Taylor's role, saying it helped her only "maybe some. He endorsed my campaign but did not actively campaign for me." On the other hand, she believes, "The MLIVE [*Ann Arbor News* editorial] endorsement really helped Jane."

Also endorsing Lumm were the surviving members of council's "back to basics" caucus, Eaton and Sumi Kailasapathy, plus Mike Anglin and Steve Kunselman, who lost their seats in the primary.

"I don't think anybody was surprised by who supported who in this race," says Taylor with a smile.



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Lumm and Sally Hart Petersen spent at least $58,000 in the Second Ward race. Did that record spending make a difference in the outcome? "I have no idea," Lumm admits.

But the mayor points to other factors he believes were more important than endorsements: "Jane has an active and committed base and has worked very hard for her constituents. This year in particular, there were a large number of issues before council that were very important to voters in the Second Ward."

"I hope it's about issues, not friends," says O'Furey, Petersen's campaign manager. And he concedes that "a few [issues] came up—the deer cull and Nixon Farms—that Jane had a better answer for. That's not to say our answer was the wrong answer. But the voters in the Second Ward wanted to go with her answer. Sally raised concerns about guns and firearms in the parks, so she was labeled as anti-cull."

"If I lost this election because I don't want to kill the deer, then I accept that," Petersen writes. "I am not willing to compromise my principles and values for votes."

"It's an important issue," Lumm says. "We heard both sides going door to door. We were inundated with feedback." Despite this, the incumbent says "I don't know how critical it was to the election. Was it the decisive issue? I wouldn't say that."

Development also may have played a role. "There was an anonymous flyer distributed pro- claiming Jane's opposition to the Nixon Farms development" off Plymouth Rd., Petersen writes. "The results suggest there is a lot of NIMBYism in our ward."

Petersen supported the project. Lumm says she does, too, but wants to make it better—and so voted against it at first reading. She says that may have misled a supporter who wrote and distributed his own letter declaring her an opponent of the project. "It is awkward, to say the least," Lumm says. "Did it influence people? I don't know."

One issue that didn't gain traction was Petersen's call for a more muscular city economic development program. Though it was obviously based on personal conviction—Petersen ran for mayor on the same platform last year—she was never able to clearly define why it was needed or how it would work. With this year's decisive defeat following Petersen's last-place finish in the mayoral race, it's unlikely to attract another champion.

This will be Lumm's third consecutive term on council and fifth overall. Before the election, she said that if reelected it would be her last term. Asked again afterward, her answer is less definitive: "I don't know."

Will Petersen challenge her if she does? "Ask me again in two years," she replies.

In the Dark

A puzzling tax decision is costing local governments dearly.

Big-box stores across Michigan have won massive tax breaks in recent years using what's known as a "dark store" argument. For tax purposes, local assessors have been valuing stores like Best Buy and Lowe's based on what they cost to build or how much income they make. Now those chains, and many others, are successfully appealing their valuations by claiming that they should be compared to buildings that are similarly sized but vacant.

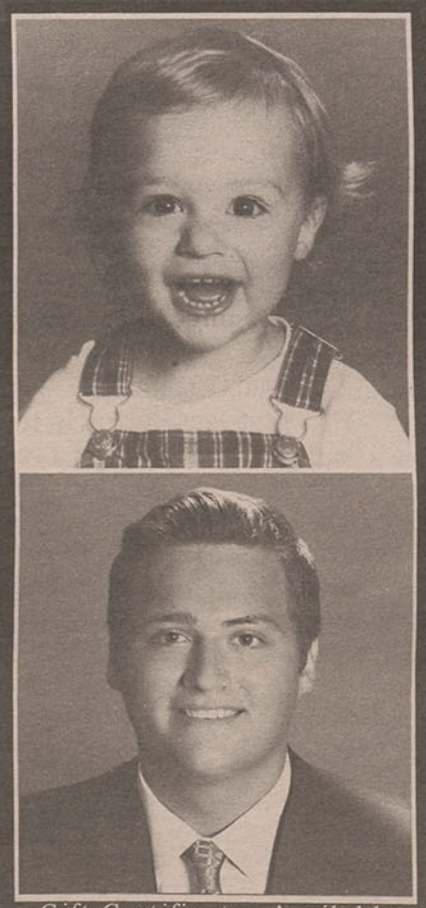
"Dark store" appeals have resulted in assessment cuts topping 50 percent and cost Michigan cities hundreds of thousands of dollars in property tax revenue.

"Dark store" cases have already resulted in assessment cuts topping 50 percent for some stores and property tax losses in the hundreds of thousands of dollars for the municipalities. Last year, the Michigan Court of Appeals upheld a state tax tribunal decision in favor of two Upper Peninsula stores—a Marquette Township Lowe's and a Breitung Township Home Depot—that used "dark store" valuation

We're happy keeping your pets happy.
Pet sitting.
Dog walking.
Vacation care.
Home boarding.
Serving Ann Arbor since 2004.
PEACEABLE PETS ANIMAL CARE, LLC
Robin Peterson, Owner
Bonded and insured
See our professional qualifications & rates at www.peaceablepets.com
734.846.0012 | robin@peaceablepets.com

A Christmas Concert
with the St. Thomas Adult and Children's Choirs
Featuring Pergolesi's Magnificat
Sunday, December 13, 3 PM
530 Elizabeth St. • Ann Arbor
Donations welcome
ST THOMAS
THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
stthomasannarbor.org
734-761-8606

HOLIDAYS



Gift Certificates Available
john shultz PHOTOGRAPHY
734-665-5988 · johnshultzphoto.com
206 S. Main, Ann Arbor

I proudly choose Howard Hanna every day.

We are hiring!
Be part of the 4th largest real estate company in the country.*

Find out how to join our team.
HannaCareers.com

Lisa Fleming
VP, Regional Manager
810-844-9194
HowardHanna.com

Howard Hanna
Real Estate Mortgage Title Insurance

Locations in Ann Arbor, Birmingham, Chelsea, Adrian, Tecumseh, Jackson, Manitou Beach and Monroe.

*REAL Trends 500, ranked by closed transactions sides for 2014, REAL Trends Magazine, May 2015. REAL Trends, Inc. is the leader in providing knowledge about trends, events and strategies in residential brokerage. RIS Media's Annual Power Broker Survey, ranked by closed transaction sides for 2014, RIS Media REAL ESTATE Magazine, April 2015.

MARK BIALEK

Costco's Airport Blvd. store is seeking to have its assessed value slashed from $6.9 million to $3 million.

methods to cut their taxes by 63 percent and 59 percent, respectively.

"They're attempting to bring this to fast foods and anything else they can," says Scio Township assessor Jim Merte. The companies argue that their stores are built to suit their specific businesses, so they are inherently less valuable without the originally intended occupants inside. Merte says that essentially means assessing them as though they were "bankrupt or vacated for whatever reason," which "contradicts" his basic job responsibility: valuing properties according to their "highest and best use."

"Their point is if that particular Taco Bell vacates that store, there's going to be a certain period of time where the owner of the building has to then eat missed rent, more or less redesign the store, put in their own signage, all these things," Merte says. "It doesn't really give any benefit to the fact that you have a profitable existing store in place."

Merte says the township saw three "dark store" cases in 2012, all of which were settled without going to the tax tribunal. CVS Pharmacy's Jackson Rd. location, Taco Bell's Jackson Rd. store and the Wendy's on Zeeb Rd. saw their "true cash values" reduced by 27 percent, 36 percent, and 8 percent respectively. This year, the Jackson Rd. Panera Bread tried to invoke "dark store" methodology to slash its assessed value from $619,300 to $350,000. Merte says the township used sales of comparable buildings to refute that appeal, settling for a more modest cut to $555,070.

Pittsfield Township supervisor Mandy Grewal says her township's first "dark store" case is currently pending: Costco's Airport Blvd. store is seeking to have its assessed value slashed from $6.9 million to $3 million.

Most shopping centers in the city of Ann Arbor were built up before the big-box era. City assessor David Petrak says no "dark store" cases have yet come before his office—but "that's not to say that we might not currently have an outstanding case" where the owner might use the "dark store" argument.

Petrak refused to comment on the valuation methodology behind a May settlement that slashed the Briarwood Von Maur store's assessed value from $3.1 million to just over $2 million. That gives it an estimated market value of $4.2 million—less than the $5 million Von Maur paid for it in Jacobson's 2002 bankruptcy auction.

Healthy Snacking

Karen Driggs is single-handedly changing the face of local vending.

Driggs, forty-five, used to be in medical sales—"medical devices, pharmaceuticals, injectables, anti-psychotics." But in that line of work, she says, "Women have a shelf life, if I can put it that way … I was aging out."

So she started looking for a business she could own and operate herself and settled on vending machines. Not the usual junk-food dispensers stocked with Coke and candy bars but healthy ones selling low-fat/low-sugar snacks like sparkling water, pistachios, and fruit bars.

Driggs launched Sleepy Cricket Healthy Vending last year; her first clients were two car dealerships and three charter high schools. She got her first big contract, with Washtenaw County, this past May.

The county's request for proposals was super strict: nothing with added fats, and no added sugars except for tiny amounts in grain-based products. That ruled out candy bars and honey buns, as well as most sweetened sports drinks, energy drinks, coffees, and teas. Fruit and vegetable juices were OK, but only servings of twelve ounces or less. And the price mix had to stay between 75¢ and $2.50.

The RFP was so demanding that Healthy Cricket was the only company that responded. "The first thing I did was hire an accountant," says Driggs. "I had to meet the criteria set by the county and stay within the price margin."

Memorable Meals Begin with the Best Ingredients

arbor farms market
An A2 Original Since 1979

• **Michigan-raised 100% Grass-fed Beef**
Raised at Lamb Farm in Manchester, MI.
Custom-cut for your holiday needs.

• **Beeler's Spiral-Sliced Hams**
Humanely-raised on Tim Beeler's farm and processed without nitrites.

• **Peacock Amish Turkeys**
The same turkey we've offered for over 30 years!

• **Michigan Pastured Lamb**
Raised at Lamb Farm in Manchester, Michigan.

• **Artisan Breads and Holiday Pastries**
From Avalon, Big City, Organic Bliss (W-F/G-F) and Zingerman's!

• **Fresh Veggies and Fruits**
You'll love our local and organic selections.

• **Gift Baskets and Party Trays**
Made-to-order creations for holiday entertaining.

• **Holiday Floral**
Fresh-cut flowers, Poinsettias and Premium Western Greens.

• **10% Off any Six Bottles of Wine**
Everyday discount, includes "sale" items.
Holiday beers and ales, too!

Check out our new expanded Café and Salad Garden!

now open daily - 7am to 9pm
2103 W. Stadium Blvd. • Ann Arbor
996.8111 • arborfarms.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING | ENHANCED LIVING | ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

At StoryPoint,™ we create a life-enriching environment like no other. We do this through our relationships with the Chamber of Commerce, the local chapter of the American Red Cross, and by being a participating sponsor at Senior Living Week. These organizations have helped us to develop a solid understanding of what matters most to our residents.

Enjoy maintenance-free living in your own beautiful, spacious, well-appointed apartment. Visit with our friendly housekeeping staff while they tidy up your place, or meet up with friends in our cozy bistro, pub or café. Our activities and outings are rewarding and our dining delectable. The opportunities are endless!

Our leasing office is now open. We warmly invite you to visit to learn more. Call us today to arrange an appointment. We look forward to helping you make the best choices for you and your family.

To learn more about StoryPoint call
734-470-4037

Interested in a career with StoryPoint?
Please visit our website or send us an email with
your resume to jobs@storypoint.com.

STORYPOINT™
Shine. Everyday.

734-470-4037 | 6230 S. State Street, Saline, MI 48176 | STORYPOINT.COM

MARK BIALEK

Driggs stocks the machines herself, hauling drinks and snacks in her Prius. County office workers get "healthier" choices like Sun Chips and KIND bars, and "healthiest" snacks like "crunchy" dried fruit.

That wasn't easy, because healthier snacks are more expensive. "Profit margins are low," Driggs says—as little as 20¢ per item. The county is only giving her access to its buildings—"no money changes hands," she says—her only income comes from what people actually buy.

The county contract, for two years with an option to renew, calls for placing machines in at least nine county buildings in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. Driggs bought the machines and hired a freight company to deliver them from her warehouse. She stocks them herself, hauling drinks and snacks in her Prius. She also talks to the users (staff, mostly) about how they are working (besides coins and bills, they accept credit and debit cards and Apple Pay) and offers samples. In the county machines, those include "healthier" choices from mainstream manufacturers, like Sun Chips and KIND bars, and "healthiest" snacks that she gets from small specialty companies, like jerky made without added sugar or salt, "crunchy" dried fruit, and "Mocha-mazing" cocoa-granola bites.

Dr. Alice Penrose, medical director for the county public health department, says the contract is part of a broader staff wellness initiative. "There are more and more studies out about health problems [stemming from] sugar-sweetened beverages," Penrose says. "We wouldn't want to have cigarette machines [in county buildings], and sugar-sweetened beverages are almost as bad for one's health."

Penrose says she never used the old vending machines, which stocked "standard stuff—chips and candies." She tried Sleepy Cricket's offerings as soon as the machines went in and pronounces herself "delighted."

"I'm reaching people who've never vended before," Driggs says. She says her main customers are adults who are stuck in offices all day and high schoolers who "don't want to crash in the middle of the day" after drinking highly sweetened sodas or energy drinks. She also knows from selling pharmaceuticals that a lot of late adolescents are on prescription anti-depressants and anti-anxiety drugs that don't mix well with caffeinated beverages.

Why did she call her company Sleepy Cricket? She says she just likes the word "sleepy." And "cricket is an Asian reference—the fighting cricket, it brings you luck."

Have Desk, Will Travel

That might be the motto for the business Jon Ryburg runs out of his Dexter basement.

An industrial designer, Ryburg spent decades studying workplace trends at Herman Miller's former Ann Arbor office. When the office closed, he turned down a job at the company's west Michigan headquarters to strike off on his own. He's now a consultant and one-man manufacturing company, making portable desks for travelers spending long hours in airports and professionals working at industrial, construction, health care, and renovation sites.

Saws whine and routers buzz as Ryburg fashions parts and assembles desks in his basement workshop. "As I see it, this niche of the market has three requirements: portability, lightweight materials, and easy assembly," he explains, brushing the sawdust off a component and adding it to a pile of similar pieces. His largest desk weighs approximately three pounds, packs into a heavy nylon tote bag, and can be assembled in the time it takes to write a check.

"Before launching my business, I spent a lot of time in airports, researching the ways people try to be productive in less-than-optimal situations," Ryburg says. "Many travelers sit, sometimes for hours, with laptops in their laps, papers spread out on the seat beside them, and their cell phone on their ear. Meanwhile, their wheeled cases sit nearby, idle. I challenged myself to come up with a product

holiday offerings
Pre-order online to guarantee availability of your favorite items,
or
come shop at the farm during our special holiday hours
Tuesday Dec. 22
3:30–6:30 in our cozy red barn
White Lotus
F·A·R·M·S
@whitelotusfarms • whitelotusfarms.com • 7217 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor

Our eye exams are anything but routine.
We focus on a holistic approach to eye care as a key part of your overall health.

You'll see the difference.

ANN ARBOR optometry

2433 Oak Valley Drive, Suite 300
734.994.0100

Christina Curcione, OD

Leah Bruder, OD

Jennifer Sortor, OD, MS, FAAO, FCOVD

Comprehensive Eye Examinations • Pediatric and Developmental Vision
Vision Therapy/Rehabilitation • Full Optical Dispensary • Specialty Contact Lenses
Treatment of Ocular Disease • Laser Vision Co-management

$5,000+
The average cost of water damage from a burst pipe
Frozen pipes are one of the biggest risks of property damage when the temperature drops. Hylant's experts can help determine the right insurance coverage for your needs.
24 Frank Lloyd Wright Drive | Suite J4100
Ann Arbor, Michigan | P 734-741-0044
hylant.com
HYLANT

Creative design + sustainable construction providing transformative outcomes for any budget.
Commercial | Residential
734.418.6255 | Ann Arbor | fabform-designbuild.com

MARK BIALEK

When Ryburg saw travelers juggling laptops and phones while their luggage sat idle, "I challenged myself to come up with a product to convert that expensive rolling infrastructure into a desk."

to convert that expensive rolling infrastructure into a desk."

Once he identified the need, he built prototypes and opened for business as DeskSpaceAnyplace.com in 2000. He makes two different desks that can clamp onto wheeled cases and a third that fits over the baby seat in a grocery cart.

All his desks have at least two functions—"an idea I attribute to my wife, Carole," he points out. The luggage-mounted models can also stand freely on three telescoping aluminum legs or tilt on a tabletop. A swing-out mouse shelf, adjustable document holders, and laptop security straps are optional.

"This is a twenty-first-century company," Ryburg says. Manufacturing, marketing, and packaging all take place in his home, and sales are generated entirely through the website. "The mainstays of business have given way to the Internet," he says. "I gave up my 800 phone number because the only calls I received were from people wanting to sell me something."

He maintains close ties to the industrial and workplace furniture industry. In his basement, three mysterious mounds covered with sheets testify to the fact that he remains a business-technology consultant who studies and tests the viability of other designers' new—and proprietary—prototypes.

"Professionally, I live for the fun of identifying needs and designing products that help people." Ryburg says. "I've developed a strong, interesting niche. I like the challenge of creating new ways to help people work more efficiently."

Safe Satire

Before mgoblog, Brian Cook founded the Every Three Weekly.

In 1999, three years after *The Onion* first put its satirical content online, Cook decided he wanted to replicate the publication's smart-aleck approach to news on the U-M campus. Cook is now best known for the sharp-edged mgoblog.com, but the E3W is his longest-lived brainchild.

While pursuing his bachelor's in computer engineering, Cook had been involved in a sketch comedy troupe organized by the University Activities Center, a student-run and university-sponsored organization that facilitates a variety of programming. Cook and some fellow company members had an itch to form a new project and found a perfect opportunity in a UAC-sponsored newspaper that Cook says "nobody really wanted to do anymore." "It had been published like once or twice the previous year," he says. "We knew there was an opportunity to get that money applied to the *Every Three Weekly*, so we just started writing stuff over the summer."

The *Every Three Weekly,* named in a jokey nod to the *Michigan Daily,* appeared that fall. Cook and friends Amol Parulekar and Sunil Sawani were credited as "lead writers/editors" on a variety of satirical news stories ranging from campus affairs to national politics. Though all have long since moved on, sixteen years later the publication is still going strong both online and in print. UAC funds a print run of about 8,000 copies, which the all-volunteer student staff distributes on the Diag and to newspaper racks across campus. "All of us have had people come up to us when we're wearing our *Every Three Weekly* T-shirts and say that they love us," says current co-editor-in-chief Sam Spero. "When we're handing out papers in the Diag, people come running."

Over the years the paper has occasionally raised eyebrows among university administrators. Cook recalls an article he wrote following U-M student Courtney Cantor's fatal fall from a sixth-floor dorm window in 1998. Although Cantor's blood alcohol content was below the legal limit, her autopsy revealed traces of the date-rape drug GHB in her blood. Her father, *Detroit News* columnist George Cantor, subsequently sued the fraternity where she'd partied the previous night as well as the university, calling for safer residences and more alcohol awareness efforts on campus.

Ann Arbor Real Estate

Washtenaw County's #1 REALTOR® in career sales

A Reputation of Excellence!

From $20,000 to $2,600,000, the Nancy Bishop Team sells condo to co-op, contemporary to classic, land to luxury.

Call Nancy!

OVER 1 BILLION CAREER SALES

NANCY BISHOP REALTOR®

734.761.3040

NancyBishop.net | Nancy@NancyBishop.com

Reinhart
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors
Sales Office: 734-769-3800

Ms GREEN CONSTRUCTION

ENERGY SAVING EXPERTS

GET INSULATION!

Retro-fit Your Home & Save Big

ENERGY SAVING SERVICES

1. Cellulose Attic Insulation
2. Foam Wall Insulation
3. Rim Joist Insulation
4. Crawl Space Insulation
5. Instulated Siding
6. Energy Star Windows & Doors
7. Mold Remediation

Energy Audits 1-855-77-AUDIT

Qualify for Utility Company Rebates on Energy Saving Improvements with a **Certified Energy Audit** from Ms. GREEN!

We are the leaders in DTE Home Performance Program. *Schedule your audit today!*

BPI Certified Professional | U.S. Green Building Council Member | ENERGY STAR | Consumers Energy Count on Us | DTE Energy | BBB Accredited Business

ENERGY SAVING EXPERTS

www.msgreenconstruction.com

Ann Arbor, MI | (734) 222-0683 | Fully Licensed & Insured

REBATES up to $3,500* from Consumers Energy

Boost your home's efficiency with the Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® Program.

Consumers Energy Count on Us

*Funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. This offer is valid for Consumers Energy residential customers only. Not valid for new home construction. No cash value. Limit one redemption per Consumers Energy account.

Learn more at ConsumersEnergy.com/myhome

"I'm nineteen, and I have no filter, and I write an article that is titled '[George] Cantor sues lettuce, Diet Coke,' the premise of which was that it made [Courtney Cantor] thin enough to get out the window," Cook recalls. He pauses and laughs. "And that didn't go over as well as I'd hoped." Cook says a "tense meeting" with a UAC representative resulted but adds, "I don't know what they could have done, because we had already printed it, and we already put it out there," he says. "It was kind of a 'don't do this again' kind of thing."

Other former E3W staffers recall a smattering of clashes over content through the years. Most of these stories end with the university either backing down from a threat or just holding the sort of meeting Cook had after the Cantor incident. Legal precedent would likely be on the E3W's side in any of these cases, as the Supreme Court and others have repeatedly ruled in favor of students' First Amendment rights in campus-funded publications.

Bryan Kelly, who served as the E3W's editor in 2007 (and cracks that he's since

calls & letters

Lori Saginaw, designer

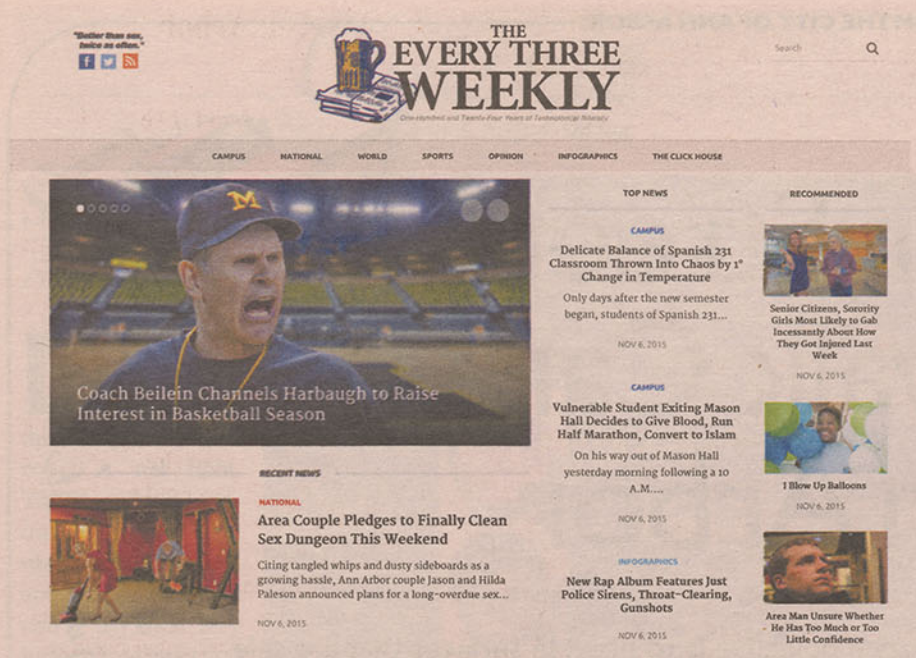
Cardamom co-owner Becky Winkler-Dhakal emailed to correct our description of Lori Saginaw, designer of the north-side restaurant's recent expansion (Marketplace Changes, November): "Lori is spouse of co-founder Paul Saginaw and despite 'Zingerman's' being written in her handwriting, she is not a legal owner or partner in any of the Zingerman's businesses."

question corner

Q: I know texting while driving is illegal. But what about texting while stopped at a traffic light or in stopped traffic? Is that legal?

A: A 2010 Michigan law prohibits texting while driving, and "a person is still considered to be operating the vehicle while stopped at a stoplight," replies city communications director Lisa Wondrash. "So, texting while stopped at a traffic light or stopped in traffic is a violation of the statute. To simplify the message to drivers, if you are behind the wheel of a car, you should not be texting—period. #itcanwait."

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.


THE EVERY THREE WEEKLY
CAMPUS NATIONAL WORLD SPORTS OPINION INFOGRAPHICS THE CLICK HOUSE
Coach Beilein Channels Harbaugh to Raise Interest in Basketball Season
TOP NEWS
CAMPUS
Delicate Balance of Spanish 231 Classroom Thrown Into Chaos by 1° Change in Temperature
Only days after the new semester began, students of Spanish 231...
NOV 6, 2015
CAMPUS
Vulnerable Student Exiting Mason Hall Decides to Give Blood, Run Half Marathon, Convert to Islam
On his way out of Mason Hall yesterday morning following a 10 A.M....
NOV 6, 2015
INFOGRAPHICS
New Rap Album Features Just Police Sirens, Throat-Clearing, Gunshots
NOV 6, 2015
RECOMMENDED
Senior Citizens, Sorority Girls Most Likely to Gab Incessantly About How They Got Injured Last Week
NOV 6, 2015
I Blow Up Balloons
NOV 6, 2015
Area Man Unsure Whether He Has Too Much or Too Little Confidence
RECENT NEWS
NATIONAL
Area Couple Pledges to Finally Clean Sex Dungeon This Weekend
Citing tangled whips and dusty sideboards as a growing hassle, Ann Arbor couple Jason and Hilda Paleson announced plans for a long-overdue sex...
NOV 6, 2015

E3W advisor Karla Talley says she "has not received pushback or criticism" during her two years on the job. She credits its writers and editors for "paying attention to and respecting sensitive campus and community climate issues."

"participated in a satirical run" for mayor of Ann Arbor), received perhaps the biggest rebuke from the university after the paper ran a story mocking another UAC organization. Kelly can't recall the specifics but says "it just implied something about how, for a certain type of person, you need to throw money at them to get them to hang out." In response, Kelly says UAC pulled the plug on a "bad movie night" the E3W was hosting at the time. "I felt it was [saying], 'Don't make fun of other UAC organizations,' because that struck them as dysfunctional, I guess," Kelly says.

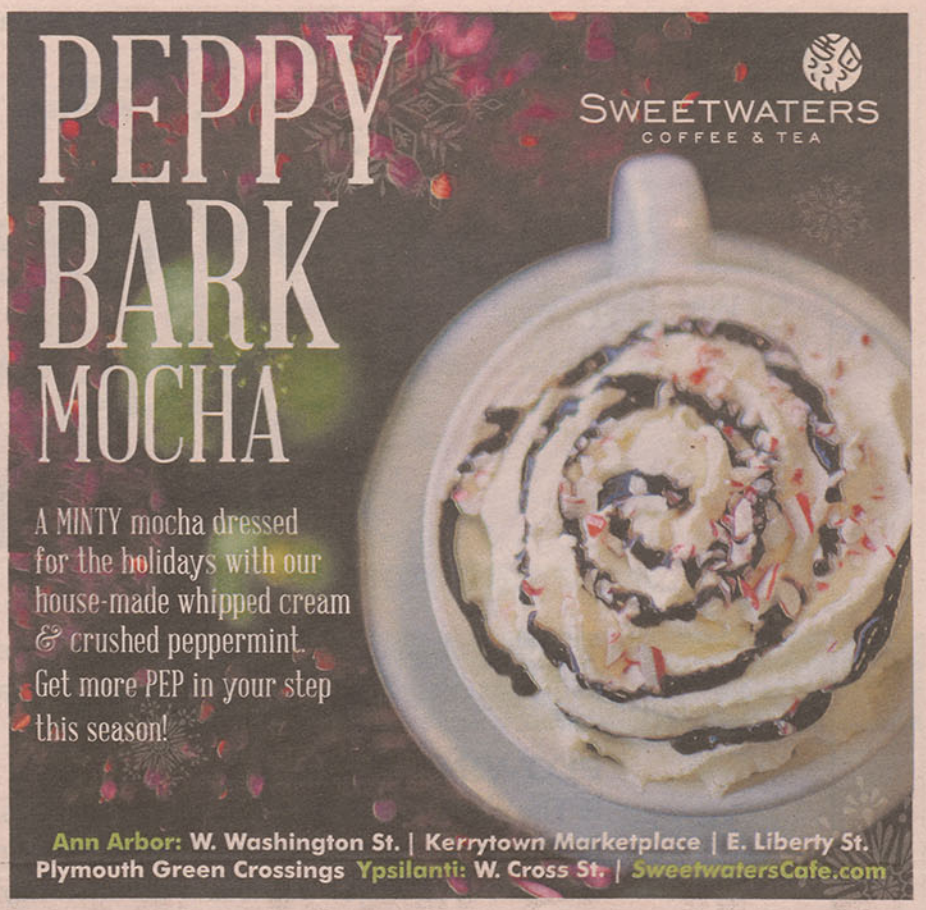
Kelly calls that punishment "self-inflicted" and praises the U's handling of the E3W. "I thought they were very tolerant," he says. "The fact that they fund that paper, I think, is pretty big in the University of Michigan. I don't get the impression that they're very open to other views in other avenues. But the fact that they can continue to fund a paper that basically lampoons every idea held dear by the institution is a good thing."

In recent years, though, the E3W's content has gotten tamer. Karla Talley, its university staff adviser, emails that the publication has "not received pushback or criticism" during her two years on the job—something she credits to "E3W writers and editors paying attention to and respecting sensitive campus and community climate issues."

These days, the E3W's campus content is mostly generic dorm-life humor.

Co-editor in chief Marie Michels says she and Spero met with Talley once at the beginning and once at the end of the last academic year and were otherwise left to their own devices. "I think Michigan has been pretty good to us," Spero says. "I have a couple other friends who go to other universities and write for satirical publications that aren't funded by the university, so I think we're pretty lucky."

These days, the E3W's campus-related content is mostly generic dorm-life humor, with headlines like "Friend Announces Plan To Remain Sober, Judgmental Tonight" and "Professors Prepare For Students' Fresh Minds, Half-Assed Excuses."


PEPPY BARK MOCHA
SWEETWATERS
COFFEE & TEA
A MINTY mocha dressed for the holidays with our house-made whipped cream & crushed peppermint. Get more PEP in your step this season!
Ann Arbor: W. Washington St. | Kerrytown Marketplace | E. Liberty St.
Plymouth Green Crossings Ypsilanti: W. Cross St. | SweetwatersCafe.com

Financial Planning Team From (L): Olivia Stacey, Tom Costigan, Kate Slocum, Eric Laub

You Talk...We Listen

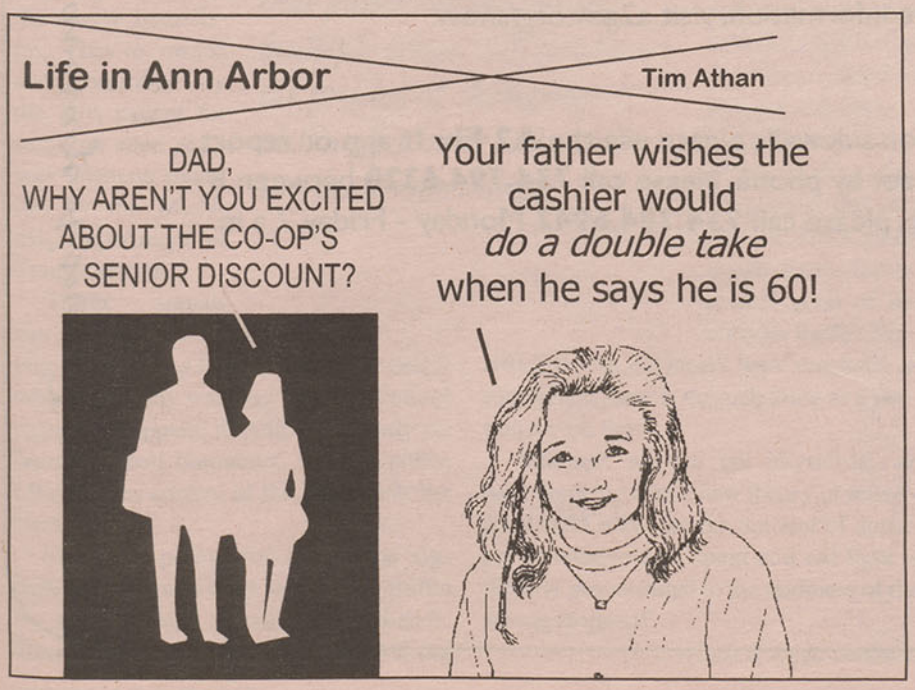
Whether it's Investment Management, Financial Planning, or Client Services, our firm employs knowledgeable professionals working together in teams to understand your needs.

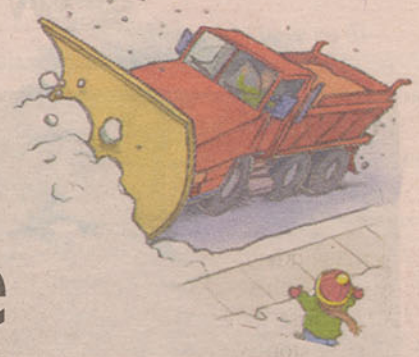
Let's Make a Plan Together

EXCHANGE
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT INC
Financial Planning | Retirement Income | Investment Counsel

303 Detroit Street ~ Suite 203
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
(734) 761 6500
www.exchangecapital.com

Life in Ann Arbor — Tim Athan


DAD, WHY AREN'T YOU EXCITED ABOUT THE CO-OP'S SENIOR DISCOUNT?
Your father wishes the cashier would do a double take when he says he is 60!



Winter Street & Sidewalk Care in Ann Arbor

The goal is to treat all streets within 24 hours of an average 4" snowstorm

The City of Ann Arbor's winter road maintenance objective is to provide surfaces that are safe to use at reasonable speeds. This does not always mean surfaces are cleared to bare pavement.

PLOWING BASICS

- The city services 98 miles of major roads and 197 miles of residential streets.
- The goal is to treat/plow all streets within 24 hours of an "average" 4-inch snowstorm.
- Trunk lines, major roads and the next day's solid waste routes are plowed first.
- The city uses salt to treat trunk lines and major roads and a 95/5 percent sand/salt mixture for residential streets and other locations.
- Schools and privately owned lots and roads are not maintained by city crews.
- The city does not clear mail boxes of snow or ice.
- Plows often deposit snow or ice on sidewalks during normal plowing. Unfortunately there is no economical technology that allows the city to avoid this.

SIDEWALKS

Residents and/or property owners are responsible for removing snow/ice from their adjacent sidewalks, crosswalk ramps and bus stops. Beginning this 2015–2016 winter, residents/property owners will receive only one warning, per season, before incurring fines.

- **Residential Property:** are required to treat ice and to remove any accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch from adjacent sidewalks, bus stop and crosswalk ramps within 24 hours from the time snowfall ceases. Surfaces are required to remain clear and safe.
- **Non-residential Property:** Owners are required to remove all snow and ice that has accumulated by 6 a.m. from sidewalks, bus stop or crosswalk ramps before noon on the same day.

FREE SAND/SALT MIXTURE TO RESIDENTS

The city provides residents with up to 5 gallons of a sand/salt mixture, per visit to 721 N. Main St. or one of six park locations: Allmendinger, Buhr, Burns, Leslie and Veterans Memorial. Residents should bring their own shovel and bucket and load material themselves from the marked pile. This material is not for contractors. For more information, visit a2gov.org/snow.

REPORT A PROBLEM

To report excessive snow or ice on a street or sidewalk, please use the **A2 Fix It** app or report online via **a2gov.org/a2fixit**. To report a street by phone, please call **734.794.6320** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. To report a sidewalk by phone, please call **734.794.6942** Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

CITY OF ANN ARBOR MICHIGAN

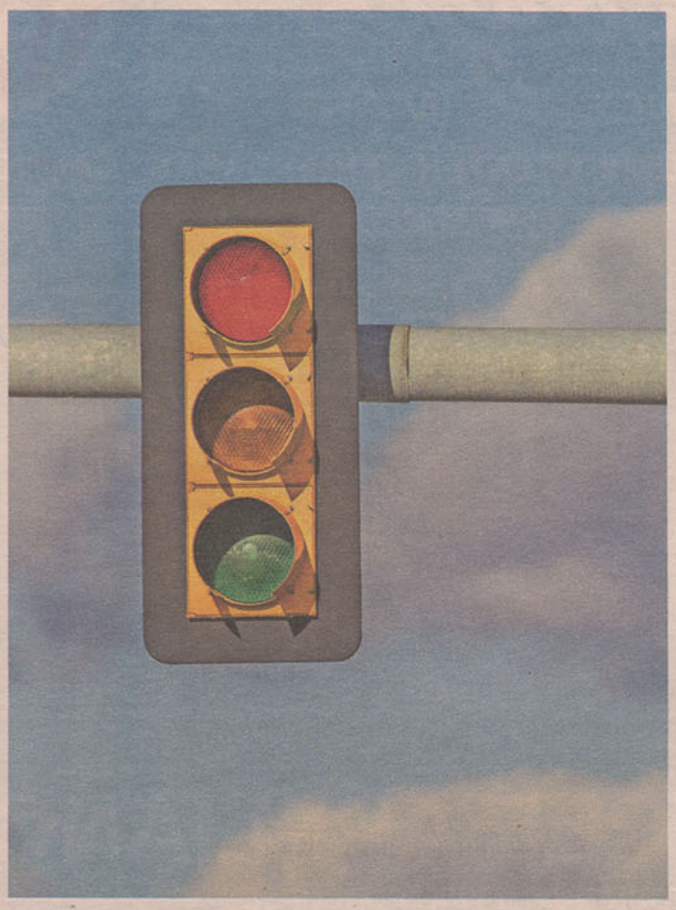
visit a2gov.org/snow

Outside

by Bob & Jorja Feldman

Stoplights

Seeing red



Driving down the road, what is the first thing that may stop you cold? A red light. Traffic signals, aka traffic lights, are ubiquitous devices about which we (the two of us) knew very little. We decided that we had to acquire at least enough knowledge so that we could chitchat about them while we waited for red lights to turn to green lights.

We found out that the first traffic signal was installed in London in 1868. It was operated by gas and exploded in about a month, killing a policeman. It was not immediately replaced. Not an auspicious start.

A Salt Lake City policeman named Lester Wire invented an electric traffic signal with red and green lights in 1912. In 1920, Detroit policeman William Potts introduced the now ubiquitous red-yellow-green device—modeled after railroad signals.

For information about Ann Arbor's own traffic signals, we turned to traffic engineers Cynthia Redinger and Luke Liu. They told us there are 162 signalized intersections within the city's boundaries. They're owned and controlled by the city, except for some on state highway business routes run by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Traffic signals can operate manually, change on a fixed schedule, or detect when cars are waiting. Manual control regularly happens in Ann Arbor only on home football Saturdays, when a police officer takes control of the lights near the stadium.

The time period for fixed time signals is determined by observing traffic on typical days, including weekends. Detection signals identify cars waiting at the intersection using in-ground induction sensors or radar. Pedestrians announce themselves by punching a button located on the box near the crosswalk. (We confirmed that punching the button multiple times will not hurry the process of changing—although it may feel good to punch something.)

Detection signals identify cars waiting at the intersection using in-ground induction sensors or radar. Pedestrians announce themselves by punching a button located on the box near the crosswalk. (We confirmed that punching the button multiple times will not hurry the process of changing—although it may feel good to punch something.)

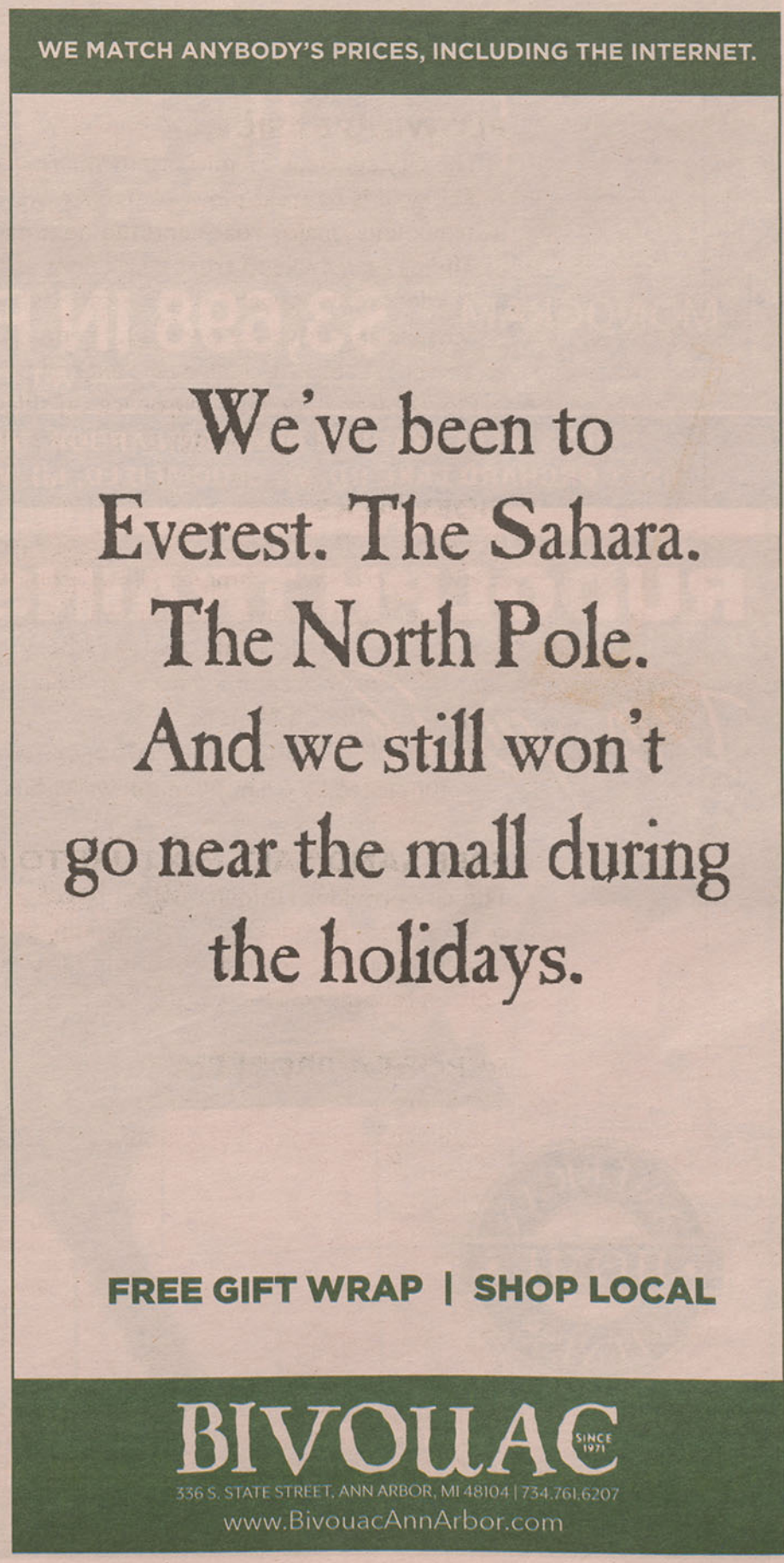
Detectors and push buttons simply provide data. Every traffic signal has its own computerized controller, but normally, most are controlled by a central computer. This computer has some fairly sophisticated software that times multiple lights on a traffic corridor to minimize delays.

One side effect of this corridor optimization is that cars may be left waiting at side streets for the greater good of the corridor traffic. Nevertheless, the engineers were emphatic in stating that there is no such thing as a two-minute red light.

Although we are not physicists, we have come up with a new theory of relativity: Could it be that the amount of apparent or relative time spent at a red light is directly proportional to the tardiness of the person stopped?

—Bob & Jorja Feldman

PHOTO BOB & JORJA FELDMAN


WE MATCH ANYBODY'S PRICES, INCLUDING THE INTERNET.
We've been to Everest. The Sahara. The North Pole. And we still won't go near the mall during the holidays.
FREE GIFT WRAP | SHOP LOCAL
BIVOUAC
SINCE 1971
336 S. STATE STREET, ANN ARBOR, MI 48104 | 734.761.6207
www.BivouacAnnArbor.com

LOCAL MICHIGAN OWNED AND OPERATED!

Big George's

HOME APPLIANCE MART

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1959

KITCHEN APPLIANCES - MATTRESSES - HOME THEATER - FIREPLACES - LAUNDRY

MONOGRAM

DELICIOUS POSSIBILITIES, SWEET REWARDS

$3,698 IN FREE APPLIANCES

WITH YOUR QUALIFYING PURCHASE

2023 WEST STADIUM BLVD. ANN ARBOR, MI WWW.BIG-GEORGES.COM 734-669-9500
6551 ORCHARD LAKE RD. W. BLOOMFIELD, MI WWW.WITBECKAPPLIANCE.COM 248-932-0870

RUDOLPH TRAINS

ON TREADMILLS FROM AMERICAN HOME FITNESS

Do you?

HOLIDAY FINANCING & PRICING AVAILABLE

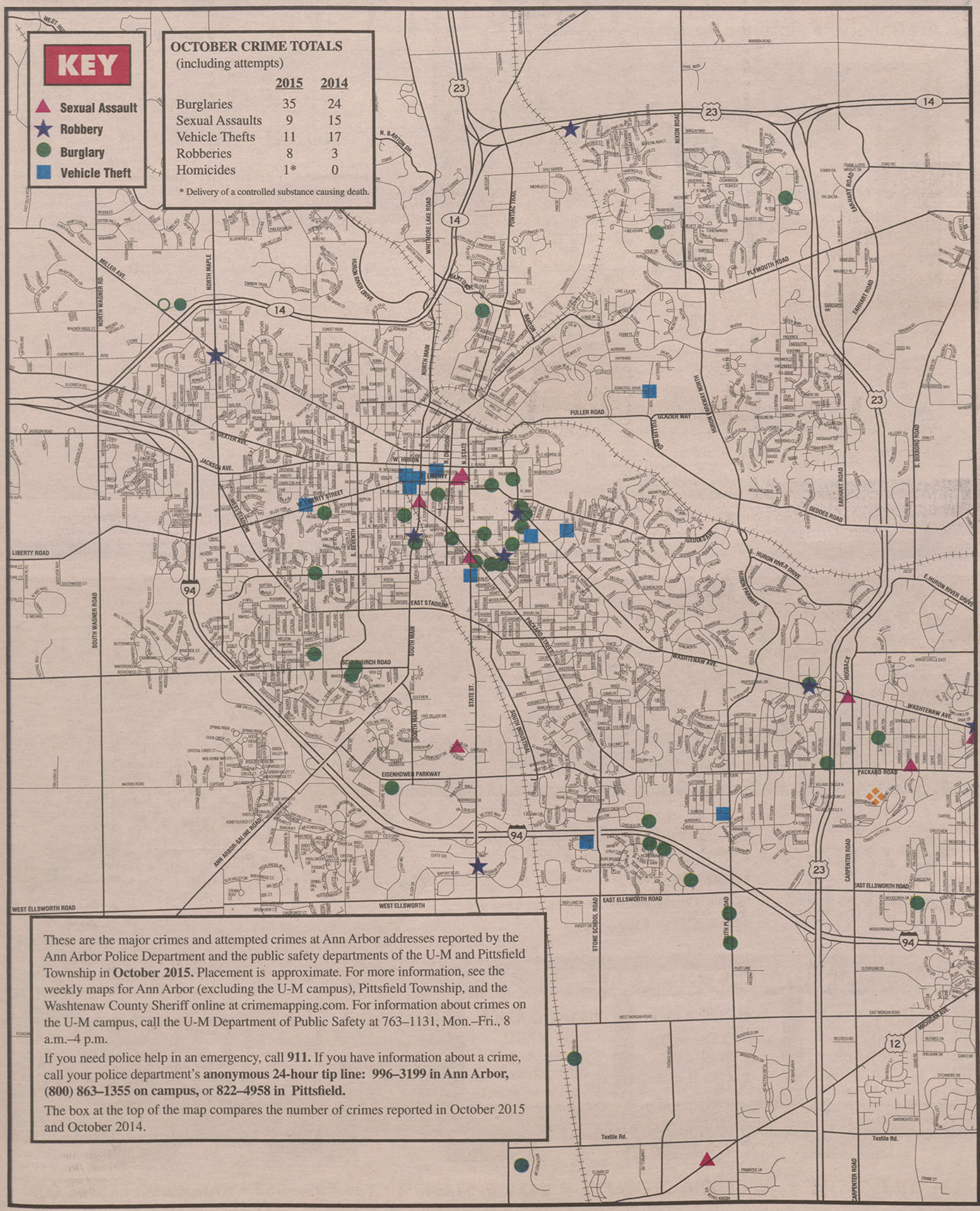
AMERICAN HOME FITNESS

850 W EISENHOWER PKWY
ANN ARBOR, MI 48108

(734) 389-2550
www.americanhomefitness.com

Offer valid through 12-30-15. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other promotional offer. *Quantities are limited and may include showroom floor models.

CrimeMap



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2015.** Placement is approximate. For more information, see the weekly maps for Ann Arbor (excluding the U-M campus), Pittsfield Township, and the Washtenaw County Sheriff online at crimemapping.com. For information about crimes on the U-M campus, call the U-M Department of Public Safety at 763–1131, Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911.** If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus,** or **822–4958 in Pittsfield.**

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in October 2015 and October 2014.

Pierre Paul

Art Gallery • Interior Design

Custom Framing • Gifts & Decor

Visit **Pierre Paul** for your

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Offering

- Jewelry
- Unique Gifts
- Art Glass
- Sculpture
- Paintings
- Fine Art

and

- Custom Picture Framing

Locally owned since 1979, Pierre Paul is located at Arlington Square on the southeast corner of Huron Parkway and Washtenaw Avenue in Ann Arbor.

3252 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • (734) 975-1050 • www.pierrepauldesign.com

Looking for that special holiday gift?

Talk *to the* **beverage aficionados** *at*

A&L Wine Castle

Family Owned & Operated

We carry hard to find beverages!
1500+ Fine Liquors
1000+ Wines
350+ Domestic & Imported Beers
200+ Fine Cigars

HOLIDAY SPECIALS

$10.00 OFF $50.00 wine purchase — expiration 12/31/2015

$20.00 OFF $100.00 wine purchase — expiration 12/31/2015

$10.00 OFF $100.00 champagne purchase — expiration 12/31/2015

** sale items included. One coupon per person per purchase.*

A&L WINE CASTLE • ASK ABOUT DELIVERY! • 2424 W. STADIUM • 734.665.9463 • AANDLWINECASTLE.COM

Ann Arborites

June Manning Thomas

Planning a better Detroit

When June Manning Thomas started high school in Orangeburg, South Carolina, in 1965, her classmates either ignored her completely or stared at her in stony silence. When grades were distributed—she was an academic whiz—many kids stuck their tongues out. Once a male classmate shoved her against a locker so hard her legs bled.

The fifteen-year-old cleaned up at home but never told her parents. "They were already feeling so badly about the whole situation," explains the soft-spoken U-M urban planning professor. "They were going to send me to boarding school. Under no circumstances would I go."

Thomas was one of about a dozen black students who desegregated the formerly all-white school. Though president Lyndon Johnson had signed the Civil Rights Act a year earlier, they suffered what she calls "years of systematic harassment."

A few teachers were kind to the gifted daughter of the president of the local, all-black Claflin University. But Thomas found some measure of relief only when, as a senior, a black student from South Carolina State University introduced her to the Baha'i faith. Although her father was an ordained Methodist minister, Thomas was troubled that all the churches in Orangeburg were segregated. Baha'i, she says, teaches "that all human beings are of the same roots."

"A lot of people who go through that kind of trauma are suspicious," says Margaret Dewar, a U-M colleague and friend. "I think that faith helped her overcome the bitterness she might have felt."

Gathered around a long table inside the capacious Art and Architecture Building, Thomas and seven urban planning grad students listen while an eighth conducts a speakerphone interview with a representative of the Detroit-area Arab American and Chaldean Council. As the young man asks questions—"What boundaries do you serve?" "Do you have relationships with the police?"—another student furiously types the replies.

The students in this seminar jointly research and make recommendations for improving a Detroit-area neighborhood, business or organization. ACC is exploring both physical improvements to its Detroit facilities and improved community outreach.

The interview ends, and Thomas, who has short hair, dangling earrings, and a serious expression, praises the students with a "nice job, guys." She tells the typist, "That was incredibly good note-taking." Afterwards, she comments on Detroit's recent popularity among young people. "All of my students, especially the white ones, want to move there. They see it as the new frontier."

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Thomas believes planners should not just sit in an office but "actually have to do field work." A recent student report helped Detroit win a $600,000 grant.

Thomas believes planners should not just sit in an office but "actually have to *do* field work." In 2014, her students wrote a 140-page report on employment in the industrial district along Mt. Elliott and Van Dyke roads on Detroit's east side. It concluded, Thomas explains, that "employers were out there," but many residents weren't aware of the job opportunities. The class was thrilled when the city drew on its research to win a $600,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce to "rejuvenate" the area.

Thomas jokes that she "more or less married Detroit" when she met native Detroiter Richard Thomas. Also an African American Baha'i, Thomas grew up in the notorious Brewster-Douglass housing projects (same building as singer Diana Ross, different time) and has family still living in the city. She was just twenty when they married as MSU undergrads.

June Thomas began researching Detroit as a PhD student at Michigan and never stopped. In 1987, she and her husband, by then an MSU history prof, helped write *Detroit: Race and Uneven Development*; this spring, she co-edited *Mapping Detroit*, which combines essays and photography to trace Detroit's economic fortunes through land use.

Though the prevailing view is that the 1967 race riots precipitated the city's decline, Thomas emphasizes problems that brewed much earlier. "Putting in so many highways without mass transit," she says. "Decisions in terms of Michigan keeping its very strong home rule, so the city could not expand its boundaries … Decisions made in terms of industries moving out of Detroit." And some of those decisions, she adds, were "based, quite frankly, on race."

Often, they were also based on the advice of urban planners who advocated "urban renewal"—an approach that cleared low-income, largely black neighborhoods and moved their residents into massive housing projects. In hindsight, says Dewar, urban renewal "was a dark period for planners." To Thomas, its failure underscores the need for more minority planners, to make sure that groups that have traditionally been powerless in America are heard.

Although Thomas has lived only briefly in Detroit, she visits often, with her students and with Dewar. The U-M profs have been following the struggles of East English Village, a racially mixed neighborhood where residents have united to fight crime and blight.

I once accompanied Thomas and Dewar to a potluck dinner in East English Village. Afterward, we drove around, and they pointed out how neighbors took care of vacant houses so they wouldn't look abandoned; lawns were mowed, porch lights were on.

That the neighborhood is holding on cheers the visiting profs. "I don't hold great value in institutions to solve the problems," Thomas says. "I think it's going to be small groups building ties between race and class. That's where I see success."

Thomas and her husband, now retired, are active in the Baha'i Center in Ypsilanti Township. She believes that the faith helped their children navigate their own high school years (daughter Kemba Braynon is now an architect at Quinn Evans; son Ali is a physician in Seattle). She follows closely the precarious situation of Baha'i followers in Iran and has met some of the staff of the "underground" Baha'i college there. (Though the religion originated in Iran, its followers are barred from Iranian universities.)

Thomas considers herself fortunate that, after her traumatic high school years, she's built a life rich in career, family, and friends. When a former Orangeburg classmate reached out, through her parents, to apologize for how he'd treated her in high school, she sent a friendly response.

Looking back, she believes there were a few people who would have liked to help the beleaguered black students but were afraid. And she did have the satisfaction, as a senior, of being selected as a presidential scholar and going to Washington to meet President Johnson.

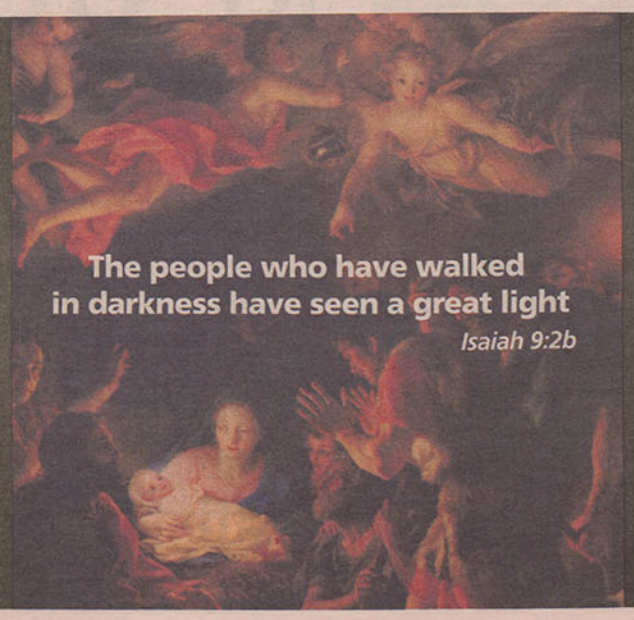
Later, she realized the high school's principal must have recommended her. She says, "I think it was his way of apologizing."

—Eve Silberman

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

1432 Washtenaw Avenue
734•662•4466
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor

www.firstpresbyterian.org



Worship With Us Sundays
8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Services
3:00 p.m. – Christmas Pageant Worship Service
Candlelight Services
5:00 p.m. – Lessons and Carols
New Time 7:00 p.m. – Lessons and Carols
11:00 p.m. Communion Service

Visit www.firstpresbyterian.org
for parking options

Most procedures are covered by your health insurance.

Take a stand against varicose veins.

Call Restoration Vein Care today!

It's an ugly truth. **One in five of us will develop painful, unsightly varicose veins. But here is a solution. Restoration Vein Care.**

Our experienced team of vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists work together to restore your legs to good health and great looks using virtually painless, minimally invasive treatments performed right in our office. And because the condition is medical, NOT cosmetic, most procedures are covered by your health insurance.

What are you waiting for? Take a stand against your varicose veins today!

Call 734.712.4310

to schedule your consultation and learn why Restoration Vein Care is Ann Arbor's vein center of choice.

RESTORATION VEIN CARE

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus Reichert Health Building
5333 McAuley Drive, Suite 4016
734.712.4310 | restorationveincare.com

The Perfect Tree

A family's Black Friday tradition

Early on Black Friday morning, my family embarks on our annual pilgrimage to the woods, not the malls. Dressed in our oldest cold-weather clothes and boots, we wedge ourselves into the car with our kids, our dog, my parents, and an occasional girlfriend or boyfriend. Carols pour out of the radio as we meander through Washtenaw County's back roads in search of the Perfect Tree.

Hats? Check. Gloves? Check. Hot chocolate? Muffins? Saw? Check. Check. Check.

We're following a tradition that my family began in Maine generations ago, and we prepare carefully. The quest begins early Friday, but no one loiters or groans about their wake-up call. We are connoisseurs of fine trees—and we live in an area rich in farms that grow majestic spruce, Douglas fir, Fraser fir, and pines, so we have plenty to choose from. They're found in the most beautiful and obscure nooks and crannies in Washtenaw and surrounding counties, so patience, maps, directions, and a GPS with a strong signal are highly recommended.

As soon as we pull into the parking lot of the first tree farm, my husband, Mark, heads straight for the farthest corner of the farm, Daniel Boone style, eyes fixed on the horizon. The kids, despite the fact that they are now grown-up professionals, scatter, racing the dog, shooting snowballs (if the weather cooperates), and pursuing dead-end trails, convinced they will find the Perfect Tree at the end of each one.

Height is the first consideration for Ben; he doesn't want an inch to go to waste between the star on our tree and our twelve-foot ceiling. Chip is the quality control expert: he inspects for arrow-straight trunks and for fullness, making certain that no angle reveals a glimpse of the trunk or dry needles. Elizabeth, the artist in the family, focuses on symmetry. And all four considerations—height, fullness, trunk, and symmetry—must find unanimous approval before the lumberjack work begins. We've sometimes visited up to three farms before everyone was satisfied.

We offer excuses like "fresh cut" and "support local farmers," but really, our outings offer much more profound benefits.

When the Perfect Tree is discovered, the boys lie under the lowest branches and the sawing begins, while Elizabeth and I gather boughs we'll use for decorations. If we're lucky, we may even find a tractor- or horse-drawn wagon that can carry the tree for us.

We toast our success with hot chocolate and snacks as the farm staff wraps the tree in twine. Then we attach the evergreen mummy to the roof of the car and fondly recall the unfortunate day Mom drove into the garage with the tree still tied to the roof. The trip home is spent reminiscing and singing carols at the top of our lungs.

"But you can find gorgeous trees in the stand down the road," neighbors point out annually.

We offer excuses like "fresh cut," "support local farmers," and "homegrown," but really, our outings offer much more profound benefits. I'm ashamed to say that I didn't realize the importance of this ordinary ritual until Ben, at age six, told friends that the day after Thanksgiving was his favorite day of the year.

Free of cell phones and outside distractions, on this one day we take the time to admire Washtenaw's rolling hills, golden fields, trees sporting autumn's last blazing colors, ancient farmhouses, and picturesque barns—sights that too often go unnoticed or underappreciated the other 364 days of busy years. And we take the time to cherish togetherness. Chip now lives in Utah, Ben in Philadelphia, Elizabeth in Chicago, and the grandparents in Maine, so every day together is a special day, one we don't take for granted. And our tree-cutting tradition links us to ancestors who came and went long before we made our appearances. As I watch my husband and children stretched under the Perfect Tree, taking turns with the saw, I realize yet again that family is the best gift I'll ever find under a tree.

—Cynthia Furlong Reynolds

Santa's Helper

A giant elf, a Cuban uprising, and the Salvation Army

Every holiday season, for at least a few hours, I volunteer to ring the bell for one of the Salvation Army's red kettles.

I do so because just before Thanksgiving in 1987, I was part of an FBI SWAT team called to Atlanta to deal with a riot at the federal penitentiary there. Cuban criminals shipped to the U.S. as part of the Mariel boatlift had taken control of part of the prison and held several hostages. The Cubans surrendered after several weeks, but I never forgot how every morning during our deployment there, the local Salvation Army served us coffee and donuts. I vowed I'd pay back their kindness.

One year, I was ringing the bell at the Maple Rd. Kroger with my wife. We both wore Santa hats and Salvation Army–issue red vests. It was snowing lightly, the Christmas lights were shining, and carols were playing on the store's PA system.

All of a sudden a man ran out of the store, closely followed by two men in white butcher smocks. The butchers tackled the man in the parking lot and pulled several cuts of meat from under his coat. The thief yelled, flailed, and kicked.

Having some experience making arrests, I thought I should help the butchers. I grabbed the flex-cuffs (large heavy-duty zip-ties) I kept in my car and knelt behind the struggling man. In my most soothing voice, I told him that we could let him up if he let me put the cuffs on him.

The man turned his head to look at me, and his eyes got very big. I'm about 6'4" and weigh about 235 lbs. I had forgotten I was wearing a Santa hat and a big red vest.

After staring at me for a few moments, he asked, "Who are you?"

I smiled and replied, "I'm Santa's helper."

He immediately stopped fighting. I cuffed him, the butchers helped me stand him up, and he placidly waited for the police to arrive.

Maybe the Dickensian message of this incident is simply: if you're poor and hungry at Christmastime, don't rob a grocery store. Find a place that cares, like the Salvation Army.

—Greg Stejskal

Prof. Ryder says:
"Have a safe and Happy Holiday Season! From all of us at Pet 'N Play"

Pet 'N Play
Your Personal Pet Sitters
www.pet-n-play.com
info@pet-n-play.com (734) 913-2027
*Daily Dog Walking *Pet Sitting *And More!

U-CUT-FIR, PINE & SPRUCE
Open 7 days, 10AM 'til DUSK
CLOSED THANKSGIVING
68th YEAR
Holtz
CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTATION
9381 Day Road near Maybee, MI
michigan.org/property/holtz-christmas-tree-plantation
(734) 587-3155
Trees for higher ceilings (up to 20 ft. tall)
Directions: South on US-23 to exit 25. Right on Plank, 7 miles to Day Rd, turn left 3 miles to farm.
OE087 20611

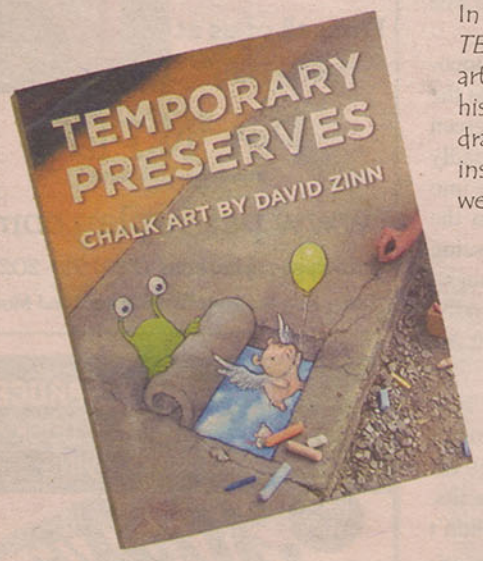
vicki's wash & wear haircuts
· chemical free, dry cuts
· over 35 years experience
· cuts tuesday - friday
· taking new clients

call (734) 663-4247
207 e. ann st.
inside Heavenly Metal

Holiday Treats for You and Your Friends
at Ann Arbor's Premiere Women's Clothing Boutique!
Since 1977
Serving Ann Arbor's Beautiful Women
Mon.-Sat. 10-6, Sun. 1-4
303 Detroit St., Suite 107
Ann Arbor • 734.995.4222

Collected Works
CollectedWorksAnnArbor.com

16 HANDS
handcrafted. heartfelt



In his newest book, *TEMPORARY PRESERVES*, local artist David Zinn not only shares his masterful, magical chalk drawings, but his wit and inspirational creative process as well. It's a true delight!

Join us for a book signing and to meet the artist
Sunday, 12/6, noon–3pm
(free parking on Sundays)

Midnight Madness
Storewide Sale
Friday, 12/4, 10am–11pm

At 16 HANDS *you'll find a large selection of carefully curated gifts including handcrafted jewelry and wearable accessories for women and men, art and decorative objects, function home goods, holiday decor.*

407 N. 5th Ave., 2nd floor (Kerrytown Market and Shops)
Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734.761.1110
See our website for extended holiday hours. 16HandsGallery.com

THINK LOCAL FIRST

Spun
YARN SHOP

We carry yarn and tools from great makers in Michigan, in the U.S., and around the world. We aspire to be a destination where our community feels welcomed and inspired to share their creativity, their expertise, and their love for making things by hand. Classes begin in January!

Opening in December.
Stop by and say hi!

734.780.7867
spunannarbor.com

Kerrytown Market & Shops

JESSICA'S
SKIN & BODY
APOTHECARY

301 N. Fifth Ave.
Ann Arbor
734.545.4303
jessicasapothecary.com

December Special

Winter Glow Salt Scrub
with 1 hour massage

- Full Body Exfoliation with Jessica's Pink Himalayan Salt Scrub with Orange & Clove Essential Oils
- One Hour Massage with Jessica's Nourishing Pumpkin Nutmeg Body Oil
- Hydrates the Skin, Detoxifies the Body, and Soothes Sore Muscles

Organic & Pharmaceutical Grade Skin Care • Facials • AHA Peels
Acne Treatments • Massage • Body Scrubs • Mineral Makeup • Waxing
Essential Oils • Made To Order Organic Body Oils • Aromatherapy

Holiday Gift Cards Available

BIRKENSTOCK®
MADE IN GERMANY · TRADITION SINCE 1774

MIDNIGHT MADNESS TRUNK SHOW FRIDAY DEC 4TH
WITH BIRKENSTOCK REPRESENTATIVE RYAN GORALSKI

FOURTH AVE BIRKENSTOCK
209 N 4TH AVE ANN ARBOR (734) 663-1644
REGULAR HOURS 10 - 6 MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY

Eggs Over Easy

Writing "Angelo's"

Eggs over easy, plate of hash browns
Take my hand momma, we're goin' to town
Oh what a wonderful thing to do
Eggs over easy, hash browns, and you

It was the late Seventies, a spring day. I was free, happy, and hungry. I smelled breakfast, and I was thinking of my sweetie and me, and then, in a flash, there was "Angelo's," shimmering and fully formed, hovering before me … a simple, happy, transporting song, just born … a seeming gift from the universe … a shiny apple, a hip, swingin' paean to love, food, and the music of Louis Jordan, one of my songwriting heroes, a man who appreciated, among other things, the confluence of jump blues and good food …

In those days Ann Arbor was brimming with live music venues and already iconic hometown bands. The scene was rich and intense … great music, great musicians. I had emerged into it from my college days at U-M. I discovered I could write my own songs, and I dove in.

I was hitting my songwriting stride by the time I moved to Delhi, a tiny community tucked into a bend of the Huron River about five miles upstream from Ann Arbor.

Delhi was the prettiest place I ever lived. I rented a small house there with some friends and had the large bedroom upstairs. From the south window I could see the railroad tracks no more than forty feet away, and beyond them, a field of high grass. The grass merged with sumac bushes and fall trees as they followed the river. I sat at that window for hours and hours playing my guitar … practicing, listening, inventing. I was always on the lookout for something new.

And then, it happened.

A spring day, a train rushing by, the aroma of breakfast cooking downstairs. I was at the window, playing through some swing chord changes in G, relieved that a song I'd been trying to wrestle into existence for the past three days had finally let go of me, and out of the ether pops "Eggs over easy, hash browns, and you!"

What a delicious proposition! What a perfect lyric! Not only did it immediately rhyme itself with "Oh what a wonderful thing to do," but in less than half an hour it pulled an entire song into being:

Angelo's, the place really hops
Angelo's, the service is tops
Angelo's, we'll be lickin' our chops
Momma, we'll pull out the stops.

"Angelo's" quickly became a crowd favorite. When *Snap!*, my first album, came out in 1980, "Angelo's" was the second song, side one. Carey Carlson heard it a few years later and chose it to be the theme song for her *OverEasy* show on WCSX. Carey played "Angelo's" twice a weekend for the next thirteen years. When Pam Rossi became the new *OverEasy* host, she kept "Angelo's" right where it was. You can still hear it on her show every Sunday morning.

I was hitting my songwriting stride by the time I moved to Delhi, a tiny community tucked into a bend in the Huron River about five miles upstream from Ann Arbor. It was the prettiest place I ever lived.

One evening I was coming back from a gig in Canada and the U.S. customs guy wanted to know about the box of new CDs in my suitcase, I said, "Well, that's *my* CD … I'm selling them. See, it's got me on the cover!"

I could tell he was still not convinced. Then he took one out of the box and looked at the song list on the back. " 'Angelo's'?!! … is that that song about the eggs over easy?"

"Yup!" I said, sensing a turn in my favor. "It certainly is. You know that song?" And to my amazement he started singing it!

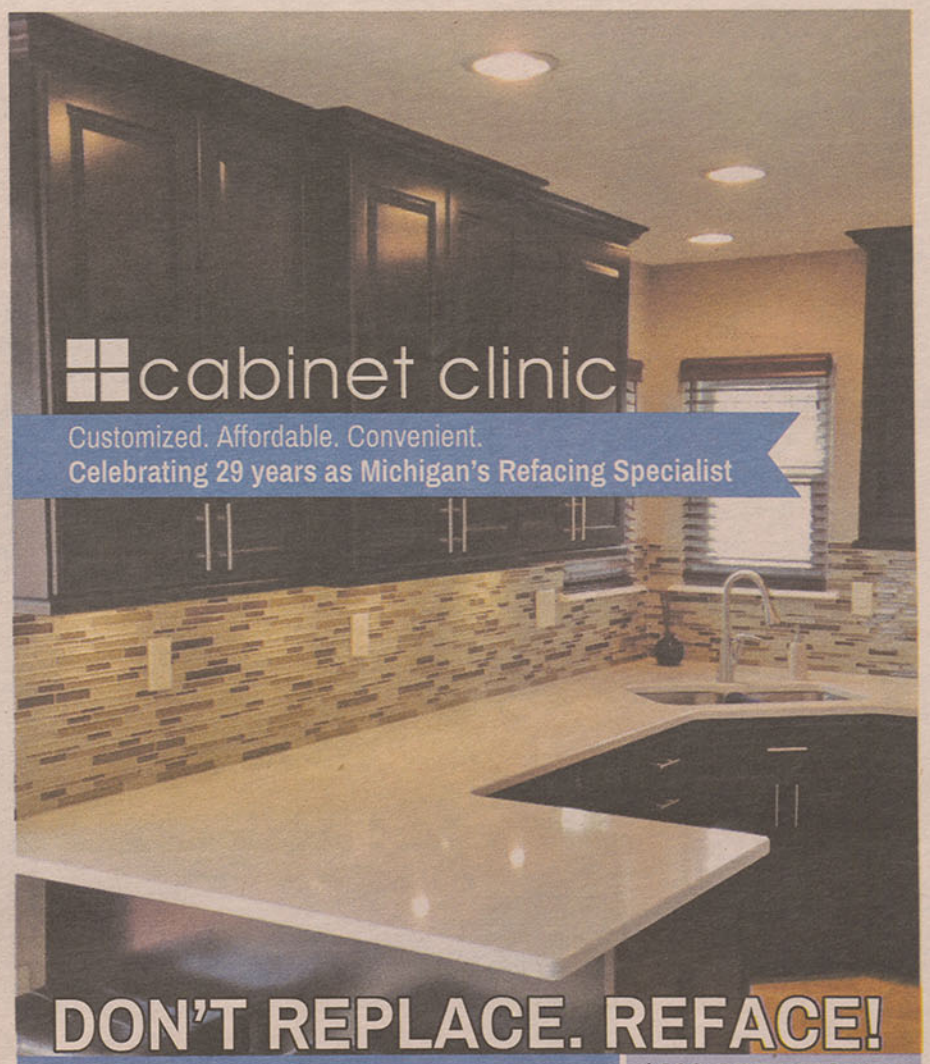
That's how it's been. "Angelo's" gathers good feeling around it.

It gathers a lot of stories too … good stories … happy stories … silver-lining stories like for my friend Steve who told me he was listening to the song when he got into a car accident. Good thing was, it made him realize "that cars come and go, but people who love you hope you'll stick around for a while!"

I guess that goes for songs too. Happy anniversary, "Angelo's!" Thirty-five years and still making new friends.

—Dick Siegel

Siegel performs at the Ark on December 5 (see Nightspots). He promises to play "Angelo's."


cabinet clinic
Customized. Affordable. Convenient.
Celebrating 29 years as Michigan's Refacing Specialist
DON'T REPLACE. REFACE!
734.421.8151 | cabinetclinic.com
LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED
Residential Builders License 2101186641
$400 OFF KITCHEN REFACING
Now through Dec. 31, 2015
Minimum $3500. Not valid with other offers. Prior sales excluded.

Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti
'Faux-Stalgia' Posters!
Chris Bidlack's not overly-historically accurate posters — A great holiday gift* and available at...
The Eyrie, (next to Sidetrack), Depot Town, Ypsilanti
Graphic Arts Wholesalers, Main St. at Liberty, Ann Arbor
Parrish Fine Framing & Art, Nickels Arcade, Ann Arbor
Stan's WILLOW RUN VICTORY LUNCH WAGON
FORD BOMBER PLANT
3 TIMES DAILY
Fly From WILLOW RUN AIRPORT
KINCH CAB Co.
IN A PINCH? CALL A KINCH!
ANN ARBOR and YPSILANTI
WHEN YOU NEED TO GET GOING
CALL
FROG ISLAND TOWING
HUNTER 2-5080
FROG ISLAND TOWING
© 2015 Chris Bidlack Visit GreatLakesPosters.com Airplane geeks should visit JetAgeArt.com
*CAUTION: Some of these high-quality posters, given as holiday gifts, may create confusion if provided to local history buffs who are sticklers for accuracy, reality, and/or truth.
GreatLakesPosters.com

There's a reason they call it *Treasure Mart.*
New treasures found every day.

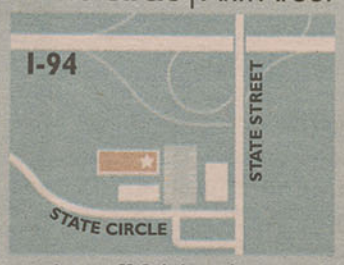
Treasure Mart

Everything on Consignment

529 Detroit Street • Ann Arbor • 734.662.1363 • www.treasuremart.com • Monday–Saturday 9:00–5:30

Additional Holiday Hours: Sundays 11am-4pm Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, Dec. 13th, & Dec. 20th.

(734) 769-1710
annarborcarpets.com
550 State Circle | Ann Arbor



Just off 94, heading south on State, take first right.

Ann Arbor Carpets
FlooringAmerica.

Family Owned & Operated for over 47 years

MOHAWK®

SmartStrand® Silk
FOREVER CLEAN™

THE PERFECT CARPET FOR FAMILIES WITH KIDS & PETS

Then & Now

Though the U-M Class of 1870 thought they had purchased a bronze sculpture, it was in fact made of more-fragile pewter.

U-M BENTLEY HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Ben Franklin's Visit to Michigan

A student's beer bottle was his statue's undoing.

For approximately thirty years in the second half of the nineteenth century the famous American statesman Benjamin Franklin was a fixture on the University of Michigan campus—albeit a sculptural fixture. He was a gift of the Class of 1870. The statue was placed on the west side of campus at the junction of the sidewalks leading to old Haven Hall (the Law School) and old Mason Hall, facing in toward campus. Ben's jacket and breeches were frequently to be found painted in the university's colors of maize and blue.

In order to prevent further deterioration, the Plant Department drilled a hole in Ben's head and filled the statue with cement. But as winter approached, the cement froze and expanded, causing one of Ben's arms to fall off.

Although the Class of 1870 thought they had purchased a bronze sculpture, it was in fact made of pewter. In 1899 a student shoved a beer bottle into Ben's "pocket," creating a hole in the hollow statue. In order to prevent further deterioration, the Plant Department drilled a hole in Ben's head and filled the statue with cement. But as winter approached, the cement froze and expanded, causing one of Ben's arms to fall off. Further damage of this sort being unavoidable, the statue was taken down and placed on a shelf in the old boiler room. Plant personnel felt that Ben should be kept safe somewhere in case members of the Class of 1870 returned to campus looking for it.

Indeed, an alumnus did search for Ben on a return visit to Ann Arbor in 1900 and found him perched in the boiler room. The alumnus reported on Ben's demise to a former classmate:

> A ghastly fracture of his personality, in the region of his seventh cervical vertebrae, caused his premature demise at the age of 25, and all the efforts of the University surgeons and copious applications of Portland cement were unavailing, and he now stands shorn of his perennial coat (and pants) of yellow and blue paint, alone and unnoticed. It is rumored that marauding Boxer students were responsible for his assassination.

Marauding students ("Boxer" was a joking allusion to China's Boxer Rebellion the same year) weren't the end of Ben's troubles. In the spring of 1907, the statue fell off the shelf and broke into dozens of pieces. His remains were piled onto a cart and given an ignominious burial in the infamous "Cat-Hole" (a depression filled with murky water which was formerly located south of the Central Power Plant). Thus ended Dr. Franklin's something less than glorious tenure at the University of Michigan.

The Benjamin Franklin statue was the second major freestanding work of public art erected on the Michigan campus, after the Professors' Monument—a broken column near the Graduate Library that commemorates four of the university's earliest faculty members. Although the Franklin work no longer exists, these two works mark the beginning of an impressive collection of outdoor public art that graces today's Michigan campus.

Over fifty such works are now located throughout the entire campus, from the football stadium at the southwest to the Matthaei Botanical Gardens at the northeast. (For a comprehensive guide, see public-art.umich.edu/the_collection.) The collection includes early works such as Carlton Angell's *Pumas* in front of the Ruthven Museums, the Carl Milles fountain on the Ingalls Mall in front of the Michigan League, and Marshall Fredericks' *American Eagle* at the southwest entrance to Michigan Stadium. But the majority of the pieces have been installed since the late 1960s, when the placement of Bernard Rosenthal's Cube in the Regents Plaza began an ongoing flow of new works that provide both intellectual stimulation and visual excitement to the campus.

—Frederick W. Mayer

Mayer was the U-M's University Planner from 1968–2003. This is an excerpt from his new book, A Setting for Excellence: The Story of the Planning and Development of the Ann Arbor Campus of the University of Michigan.

• VISIT ANN ARBOR'S BEST KEPT SECRET •

HEAVENLY metal

Your holiday stop for:
gifts
apparel
cards &
treasures for you!

207 E ANN ST • KERRYTOWN • ANN ARBOR
OR ONLINE AT
HEAVENLYMETAL.COM

Midnight Madness

Fri. Dec. 4th

Downtown Ann Arbor

- Sales
- Entertainment
- Stores open late

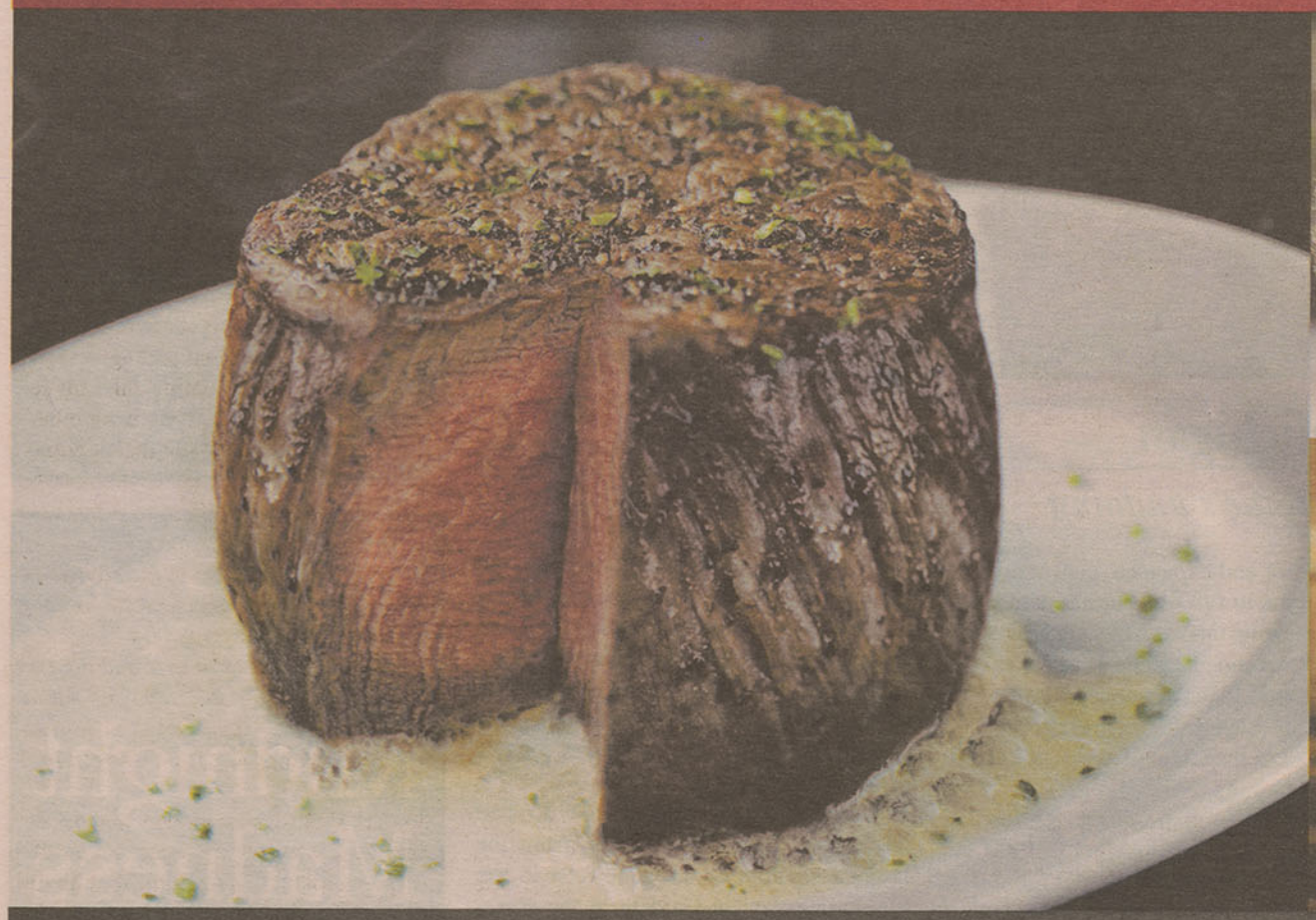
mainstreetannarbor.org

Ruth's Recipe:

EXERCISE YOUR MIND, BODY AND PALATE.

DANCE LIKE YOU MEAN IT.

STOP AND APPRECIATE THE CLASSICS.



Join us for Fourth Avenue Happy Hour at Ruth's Chris Ann Arbor

MONDAY – SUNDAY from 4:30 – 6:00PM
& 9:00PM until close

RUTH'S CHRIS STEAK HOUSE

U.S. PRIME

THIS IS HOW IT'S DONE.

Ann Arbor • 734.585.5155 • 314 S. Fourth Ave

Mr. Congeniality

Christopher Taylor's Civil Offensive

by James Leonard

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

In early September, mayor Christopher Taylor has a scruffy beard grown on vacation. A month later, he's clean-shaven and dressed in his usual khakis and a blue blazer.

The mayor has asked me back because he's unhappy with his first interview. "I didn't respond to your questions, generally speaking, because you framed it as [an article about] 'leadership style.' What I think you're getting at is 'how do you approach the job, how do you view the job?' "

Sitting in a conference room of Hooper Hathaway, the Main St. firm where he practices business and estate law, Taylor then offers an example of how he approaches the job of being mayor: "At city council meetings I make it a point to greet the councilmembers individually who are there at the opening bell. I always greet Jack [Eaton], shake his hand, and talk a little bit.

"That's something that I did consciously," Taylor explains. "It's a little formalistic, but it's important. If you're going to work together, there should be some personal connection that exists, some warm conversation beforehand, particularly and most importantly for people who don't always agree."

Taylor and Eaton disagree often enough that Eaton backed one of Taylor's opponents for mayor last year—and this year, Taylor backed Eaton's council opponent. But that's the new mayor in a nutshell: highly articulate and deeply concerned with civility—while still determined to get the results he wants.

One way to understand the very tall Taylor is to put him in the context of his predecessor, seven-term mayor John Hieftje. Taylor ran last year as the popular mayor's heir apparent, and his message—Ann Arbor's going in the right direction—clearly worked. He won a four-way race with almost half the total votes.

"I wouldn't go so far as to say I was his mentor," Hieftje says. "I didn't know him before he ran [for council in 2008]. I would say he's a very astute observer."

When he was mayor, Hieftje says, he "had a vision of where to go. We had a good group of councilmembers. They were very supportive, so I got to be more forceful and engaged. I became the spokesperson of some initiatives, the greenbelt, for instance, and the train station."

Hieftje "found religion in environmental causes," affirms two-term Ward 2 councilmember and former planning commission chair Kirk Westphal. "If you can point to a single issue, it would be transportation and especially rail."

"He was trying to build a model city," says new Ward 3 rep Zach Ackerman, who's been attending council meetings since 2009, when he was still a teenager, "from a sustainable system of city government to an environmental policy that was a leader in the state. And he started the conversation about a changing downtown."

> *"If you're going to work together, there should be some personal connection that exists, some warm conversation beforehand, particularly and most importantly for people who don't always agree."*

"John did not see that [maintaining] a status quo was possible," says four-term Ward 1 rep Sabra Briere, who also ran for mayor last year. "John had as a goal that there would be broad-strokes consensus on the direction we were going, and consensus would continue year after year, and we would get to the goal."

Taylor calls Hieftje "the right mayor at the right time. He had a vision for a train station and a greenbelt and made the case for why it would be good for the city—economically, environmentally, and in terms of quality of life—that was persuasive."

Until it wasn't any more—and Taylor inherited that part of Hieftje's legacy too.

"When anyone is a leader for fourteen years, resentments build," says Ackerman. "A lot of those resentments came to the surface at the end of the Hieftje administration." Ackerman sees a council voting bloc "that existed to counter everything that he said: Jack Eaton, Steve Kunselman, Mike Anglin, Sumi Kailasapathy, and more often than not Jane Lumm." The Observer calls that alliance the "back-to-basics caucus" as opposed to the mayor's "activist coalition."

Only Lumm would talk about Taylor. Eaton, Kailasapathy, and Kunselman declined to comment, while Anglin, who lost an August primary to Taylor-endorsed Chip Smith, did not reply to inquiries for this article.

Briere agrees the council fractured in Hieftje's final years—and "as council became more confrontational, John became more withdrawn. If someone was strident and aggressive, it made negotiating difficult for him. And there were members of council who felt that negotiating was giving in. That would be completely foreign to John, who is a nice accommodating guy who knows you give and take to find a balance. To deal with people who weren't looking for balance must have been very frustrating for him."

It was. "I had fourteen years of patience, and the last year or two that patience frayed," Hieftje says. "There is a lot of BS at the council meetings, a lot of posturing, and a lot of grandstanding. It's frustrating, and I lost patience."

Asked if he thought Hieftje was burned out by the end of his last term, Taylor pauses to weigh his words. "I agree. John was the recipient of criticisms that he did not deserve." Asked which criticisms those were, Taylor smiles but says no more.

"I don't read books on leadership," Taylor says. "I don't have a coach. I try to tell people what I think and treat people with courtesy.

"I'm fairly simple," he continues. "I'm a warm person, I'm a cheerful person, and it's important to me to have good relations with people that I disagree with. I don't have a lot of patience for nastiness." And that's all he'll say on the subject of his leadership style.

"Christopher has his own style," says Hieftje. "Very cool, very balanced."

"He's nice," says Jane Lumm, who survived a challenge from a Taylor-endorsed candidate in November (see Inside Ann Arbor, p. 13). "He's a gentleman. He's more inclusive [than Hieftje]. He reaches out to people."

"John would avoid talking to councilmembers if he found them unwilling to bend," says Briere. "That didn't mean on an issue. That meant period. He would avoid dealing with someone who was angry because anger was difficult for him to deal with—period.

"But Christopher's style is engagement rather than withdrawal," Briere continues. "I don't mean that he gets

Crimson Apple Studios
photography
734.369.5300
portraits
products
groups
events
crimsonapplestudios.com

Grief can darken the holidays.
You don't have to cope alone.
the kite network provides **hope** to those in grief.
the kite network, a local nonprofit organization, provides one-to-one peer support to those who have lost a loved one, free of charge.
the kite network℠
LIFTING LIVES DARKENED BY GRIEF
www.thekitenetwork.org
info@thekitenetwork.org
734.975.0238

Deck Your Halls with Boughs of Holly!

Happy Holidays to One and All!
Make all your Real Estate Wishes Come True!
Ed & Lisa Ridha
Association Brokers, The Charles Reinhart Company
Cell : 734-645-3110 • eridha@reinhartrealtors.com
Cell: 734-395-2586 • lridha@reinhartrealtors.com
www.edridha.com • www.lisaridha.com
Reinhart
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors
Sales Office: 734-971-6070

Mr. Congeniality

angry. I mean he doesn't let it ruffle him. Christopher engages people who are difficult to engage, which is a very positive thing. He doesn't try to stop dissent. He doesn't try to control outcomes. Those were all things people accused John of doing."

"So far [Taylor] has really emphasized civil discussion," says Westphal. "He does not shy away from correcting misinformation that is shared at the council table. But he does it in a very factual manner."

"He operates in logic and reason", Ackerman says. "When you listen to him speak at the table, it's clear what his leadership style is: what are the facts, what are our values as a city, how do we apply those facts to those values, and what is the end result?"

That approach was on display in November's deer cull debate, when Taylor cast a lone vote against using lethal means to thin the herd. "When we spoke before the deer vote, he told me how he was going to vote," Briere says. "He'd listened to the public comment. He'd listened to the community. And his observation is 100 percent accurate. We don't have community consensus on the solution, and we clearly didn't have a community-approved plan. He said in public exactly what he has said to me."

Taylor was just as frank about opposing the reelection of councilmembers who don't share his vision of the city. "When I made the decision, I felt it was very important to do so with courtesy," he says, "and have it be a positive statement about one candidate rather than a negative statement about another candidate."

"He called to tell me he was endorsing Sally [Petersen]," says Lumm. "He was making the calls. He was very nice. He said this was the hardest one of these conversations. And at the end he said, 'You know, Jane, it's all about the votes.' I said 'I understand that.' "

"My relationship with Jane Lumm is a very warm one," says Taylor. "Where there are issues on council where votes diverge, I'm more likely to diverge from her. But we're still pals. We get along very well together."

"Christopher's method to make sure he gets what he wants is to overtly try to make sure people get elected who agree with him," says Briere. "His decision to endorse in primaries was not something John ever did—except he sort of did. Everybody knew when John went door-to-door with Sandy Smith or Margie Teall. He was endorsing, he just wasn't endorsing on paper."

Once out of office, Hieftje also endorsed candidates—the same ones Taylor backed. "He's very good at it," says Hieftje admiringly. "I don't think there'll be any repercussions for him endorsing."

After a year as mayor, "the [council] meetings feel more positive to me," Taylor says. "We are getting along well as a council. We don't agree on everything, but, where we do disagree, we are able to do so in a constructive manner."

"In the couple of minor tiffs I've seen at the table so far, Taylor will lay the facts out with a smile and won't swing back," Westphal says. "It becomes a lot less mean if the person you're fighting doesn't fight back."

"It's gotten less abrasive," agrees Briere. "It hasn't gotten shorter."

Meetings grew longer at the end of the Hieftje years in office as his activist coalition lost its grip on council. For the last several years, they've often lasted past midnight.

"It's difficult as the mayor to try and shorten them, to say, 'You've said that three times. Why do you need to say it again?' " says Hieftje. " 'Do you think we weren't listening?' "

"The meetings are extraordinarily long," says Westphal. "I don't envy the position of chairing these meetings. There are a lot of ideas that get discussed too long, including some of mine. I need to be cracked down on, and so does everybody else."

Taylor says there can be good reasons for long meetings. "Sometimes they last long because we have extensive public meetings. In those circumstances it is appropriate that we listen to members of the public who care deeply about the subjects that we are working on. I don't begrudge that time at all. And the political culture does value full hearing, full process, and full engagement."

The closest Taylor will come to criticism is to say "we have a tendency to work through issues at the table that might best be dealt with by prior engagement with staff." But he has done something to increase efficiency. With the election of Ackerman and Smith, there are fewer members of the back-to-basics caucus on council to disagree with his initiatives.

Told Lumm spoke warmly of him, Taylor smiles. Told Eaton, Kunselman, Kailasapathy, and Anglin all had no comment, he smiles more broadly.

"Our policy goals often diverge, so we do not often work on matters together. That's OK. At the same time, there are no cross words between us. In the ramp-up to election season, during election season, and after election season, we are collegial and warm with each other. That's entirely as it should be."

Asked about his future plans, the new mayor says, "I have no reason to think I won't run again" for mayor next year.

Then Taylor smiles again—and why not? He defeated all his most likely challengers last year, so, unless something goes wrong, he's probably got the job as long as he wants it.

With his two new council allies, the mayor enters his second year with a majority not seen since the peak of Hieftje's administration. What will he do with it? "It will not surprise you to learn that my goal is what I talked about during the course of the campaign," he says with yet another broad smile, "and that's to broadly improve basic services and enhance quality of life."

During his mayoral campaign last summer, Taylor signed on to a pledge to end chronic homelessness by 2018. As an intermediate step, he notes, "the city is working with county and other agencies to end [veterans' homelessness] by 2016."

At a Rotary Club meeting this past spring, he also spoke passionately about the need for more affordable housing. Since then, the council approved the county affordable housing needs assessment by a vote of 10–1, with Eaton as the lone dissenter. And Taylor notes that McKinley CEO Albert Berriz has spoken "very plainly" about the company's desire to build affordable housing.

Taylor anticipates that the city's storm-water rate study will result in a proposal to raise rates—and says he'll fight to get it passed. "Insuring that there is the political will to fund the city's needs is part of the mayor's job."

Taylor also recently called for an overhaul of the city's storm-water infrastructure. "We are undertaking a storm-water rate study to determine what sort of funding we need to have the storm-water system we need," he says. He anticipates that study will result in a proposal to raise storm-water rates in the 2017 budget—and says he'll fight to get it passed. "Insuring that there is the political will to fund the city's needs is part of the mayor's job."

Under Hieftje, council's deepest divisions were over new public buildings—the justice center and the Library Lane parking structure. For Taylor, the equivalents may be the upcoming decisions about whether to build a high-rise over Library Lane and construct a new train station.

Taylor says he doesn't have a favorite plan for Library Lane "at this time. I'm looking forward to seeing the final-final plans." But he describes the train station as "a game changer."

Funding for a station remains to be determined, and the project won't go forward without a public vote. But the mayor is committed to seeing it through: "At some point the train station will need a leader," Taylor says. "And if I'm still around, I will lead." ■

WHEN YOU JUST DON'T, WON'T, OR CAN'T DO IT ON YOUR OWN.

Personal Training • Group Training
Bootcamp • HIIT • Athletic Conditioning

CoachMeFit helps clients of all ages and levels of fitness reach their ideal weight and gain strength, flexibility, and balance.

Call 734-477-9430 for a free consultation.

COACHMEFIT
PERSONAL TRAINING PERFECTED

2300 E. Stadium Blvd. | Ann Arbor | **www.coachmefit.com**

START 2016 OFF RIGHT WITH OUR 10-WEEK BODY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM!

Experience Our Continuum of Care

- Adult Day Care
- Affordable Housing
- Assisted Living
- Continuing Care at Home
- Home-Based Products and Technologies
- Home Care
- Home Delivered Meals
- Home Modification Services
- Hospice Care
- Independent Living
- Long-Term Care & Skilled Nursing Services
- Memory Care and Support
- Rehabilitation Services
- Respite Services

Evangelical Homes of Michigan has continued to provide compassionate care and innovative solutions to older adults, since 1879.

EVANGELICAL HOMES OF MICHIGAN
Exceptional Services, Innovative Solutions

Service Area: Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and Monroe Counties

734-295-9292

www.EHMChoices.org

It's Your Home...

Wouldn't You Rather Stay There?

LifeChoices®, Inc. is a membership program that helps you maintain your health while staying in the home you love. This program is regulated by the State of Michigan and operated by Evangelical Homes of Michigan.

LifeChoices®, Inc. members benefit from a dedicated wellness coach, who works with them to address social, spiritual, recreational, and health needs.

Discover how you can enjoy peace of mind, years of carefree living in your own home, and financial certainty with the LifeChoices®, Inc. program.

Life Choices®

Register for an upcoming Retirement Discovery Event call **734-295-9292**

www.lifechoicesathome.org

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Obamacare in Ann Arbor

The Affordable Care Act is reshaping patient care—and bringing local doctors under one financial roof.

by Ilene Wolff

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Mary Durfee says IHA has reduced hospital readmissions among higher-risk patients by eight percentage points.

When Josephine Taylor was hospitalized for a seizure in 2014 at St. Joseph Mercy Ann Arbor, she noticed something new—for the first time, her primary care doctor's office got involved in her care, even though a different doctor admitted her to the hospital.

The difference didn't stop there.

"If the [primary-care doctor's] nurse care manager doesn't hear from me in a week or so, she calls me," says Taylor, of Pittsfield Township. "It's more one-on-one follow-up, and I really like it."

It turns out that Taylor spotted changes prompted by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare. She's one of an estimated fifty million Americans whose health care is paid for on a fee-for-service basis by Medicare, the government's insurance for the elderly and disabled. Under the ACA, Medicare is using its financial clout to drive greater efficiency and better care for the people it covers.

They're making some progress. Taylor's doctor and other health care professionals in the Physician Organization of Michigan saved Medicare $27 million in 2014. POM received a share of the savings—$12 million.

The U-M's David Spahlinger says there's not much savings that can be made in the care of 80 percent of Medicare patients.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"We're not able as a group to tell you the precise interventions that led to success," says Steven Bernstein, a U-M physician who's on POM's board of managers. But Bernstein cites several possible contributors to the savings, including more nurse care managers like the one who keeps in touch with Taylor; more at-home rehab for joint replacement patients; getting seniors in for an annual wellness visit; and more people creating advance directives for end-of-life care.

It took years for Ann Arbor health professionals to achieve that success.

Carrots and sticks

POM is an "accountable care organization," a group health care provider created by the Affordable Care Act. Since 2012, more than 400 ACOs have been created to serve 7.9 million Medicare beneficiaries.

POM alone encompasses more than 6,300 health-care professionals, including the U-M's Faculty Group Practice; Integrated Healthcare Associates, the big medical group linked to St. Joe's; and the independent Huron Valley Physicians Association.

ACOs are "accountable" because Medicare gives them incentives to reduce costs while maintaining quality. If an ACO reaches a savings target while meeting Medicare's quality standards, it gets to share in the money saved, like POM did last year.

Getting there, though, has been harder than expected. Neither the U-M faculty nor IHA signed up with POM initially. They started out, in 2012, with their own "Pioneer" ACO. An elite group of early adopters, the Pioneers keep a bigger share of Medicare's savings if they meet the agency's goals—but also face financial penalties if those targets aren't met.

They weren't. Medicare aimed to cut costs by 2 percent that year, but the Ann Arbor–area Pioneer saved just 0.3 percent.

Dr. David Spahlinger, executive director of the U-M faculty practice, explains there's not much savings that can be made in the care of 80 percent of Medicare patients.

"There are still savings, but it's harder," he says.

The real savings possibilities, Spahlinger says, are in Medicare patients who have five or more chronic medical conditions and are hospitalized repeatedly. The challenge is to manage their complicated conditions outside the hospital, so they make fewer emergency department visits and need less inpatient care.

Adding to that challenge, from 2006 to 2010, the U-M doctors participated in demonstration projects designed to save money on patient care. That success may have left them with fewer opportunities for savings going forward. After all, there's only so much money to cut before reductions affect the quality of care.

"It's harder over time," says David Introcaso, vice president at the American Association of Accountable Care Organizations. "I think that's why savings year 1 [2012] over year 2 [2013] dropped 60 percent for Pioneers." To date, thirteen of the thirty-two Pioneers have dropped out.

The Dartmouth-Hitchcock health system in New Hampshire has considered dropping out of the Pioneer system, too, according to its June editorial in *Modern Healthcare* magazine. It points out that health systems whose costs were already lower before Obamacare will find it harder to meet Medicare's savings goals. That may be the case with the U-M's doctors as well.

While many Pioneer ACOs saved Medicare some money, few met the targets necessary for them to share in the savings.

"Pioneer ACOs had a small collective impact on slowing total Medicare spending growth in the first year, but most Pioneer ACOs saw [spending] growth similar to their local markets," according to a 2013 report prepared for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Since the Pioneers are penalized when costs rise, why are some groups still willing to take the risk? Introcaso offers a possible motive: "The industry knows we're moving to pay-for-value, so the sooner you move your learning curve the better, to be more competitive in your market," he says. "Part of the problem is that nobody really knows what explains success or failure."

Impeding the success of Pioneer and non-Pioneer ACOs alike is an inherent systematic flaw.

Unlike a health maintenance organization, where a primary care doctor controls referrals to other caregivers, patients in an ACO are free to seek care wherever they like. Nevertheless, *all* their medical costs are attributed to the ACO.

Unlike HMOs, many patients don't even know they're in an ACO. While it is required to notify beneficiaries they belong to it, POM has heard from patients who think the notification letter is a scam, or they confuse it with other health care mailings, according to a letter it filed with Washington in response to proposed ACO changes.

Even doctors don't know at the time of treatment which of their Medicare patients are in an ACO.

Congratulations to the Heartland Health Care Center - Ann Arbor facility for achieving 5-star rating!

For their outstanding teamwork and effort in making a difference to our patients. Your dedication is why Heartland - Ann Arbor received a five-star rating by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.*

Come tour Heartland, see our staff in action and see why your best way home is through our doors.

* Visit www.medicare.gov for more information.

Heartland
Ann Arbor

heartlandnursing.com/AnnArbor

ANN ARBOR
PLASTIC SURGERY

Call us today to schedule your consultation

(734) 913-5100

annarborplasticsurgery.com

CUSTOMIZE YOUR SAVINGS...
CHOOSE ONE:

- Purchase one syringe of Juvederm and receive **$100 off one area of BOTOX**
- Purchase two syringes of Juvederm **save 50% on the 2nd syringe***
- Purchase two syringes of Juvederm **save 50% on the 2nd syringe*** and **$100 off one area of BOTOX**

(Savings on Juvederm Ultra, Juvederm Ultra Plus, and Juvederm Voluma.)

*Savings on equal or lesser value

Mention this ad to receive the special. Supplies are limited and some restrictions may apply. Cannot be combined with other offers. Please call our office for details or to schedule your appointment. Offer expires December 31st, 2015.

Obamacare in Ann Arbor

A medical monopoly?

POM saved Medicare $4.7 million in 2013, its first year. It didn't share in those savings because it missed the 2 percent goal, but at least it wasn't penalized for falling short.

Avoiding that risk may explain why St. Joe's and the U-M abandoned their own Pioneer ACO for POM. Though few patients realize it, the group now includes almost every doctor who treats adults in the Ann Arbor area.

Does that raise legitimate concerns about a monopoly? Introcaso points out that Washington granted ACOs several waivers from laws against kickbacks, self-referrals, and eliminating competition. The exemptions were needed, he says, to accomplish the law's goals: "If you're going to ask providers to give more integrated care, that leads to consolidation."

Martin Gaynor, an economics and health policy professor at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh who has studied hospitals merging and buying physician practices, is a little more circumspect.

"Well, if indeed there is a monopoly, then yes," it's concerning, he says. "Monopolies are good for the monopoly and nobody else."

Marianne Udow-Phillips, director of U-M's Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation, says the motives for consolidation matter: "I really think it's quite important to distinguish what's happening with POM ACO and the mergers and acquisitions of hospitals, because [ACOs] are not financially linked to the reimbursement structure that's established with the payers.

"The reason they're doing what they're doing … is because they can share data and coordinate the care of patients."

Including many caregivers helps POM save money and provide better care, says Dr. Mary Durfee, IHA's executive vice president and chief medical officer.

"Making the transitions from one care setting or provider to another needs to be as consistent and as seamless as possible," she says. "Working together through POM … has helped us to build a collaborative relationship that benefits the community."

POM's growth created challenges. Leigh Ann Bowers, who retired this year as the group's administrative director, says that when the IHA and the HVPA doctors joined in 2014, they brought with them some sicker patients, who are more expensive to treat. Bowers believes that's why POM's cost to treat a Medicare beneficiary increased from an average of $8,789 in 2013 to $9,000 in 2014.

Spahlinger, who chairs POM's board of managers, declines to break out local results for Ann Arbor.

"We measure to improve, not judge," he says.

Closing the revolving door

Among ACOs, only the Pioneers are penalized for missing cost targets. But all hospitals are penalized for overspending. Medicare reduces its payments when patients return to the hospital for the same problem within thirty days of discharge.

Based on percentages alone, St. Joe's, with half of its patients insured by Medicare, has more at stake than U-M, whose Medicare patient population is 29 percent.

In 2012, Medicare started penalizing hospitals with high readmission rates for patients admitted for heart attack, heart failure, and pneumonia. The penalty is broad: *all* of a hospital's Medicare payments are reduced, not just those for the heart and pneumonia patients.

While both hospitals' penalty rates for readmissions were on an initial downward trend, St. Joe's trajectory is starting to move upward.

In 2013, U-M's readmission penalty was a 0.65 percent reduction in its total Medicare inpatient payments. Last year, U-M's penalty was reduced to 0.26 percent; this year the rate fell to 0.22 percent.

At St. Joe's in 2013, the readmission penalty was 0.11 percent; in 2014, it dropped to 0.06 percent; this year it will increase to 0.41 percent. Either the hospital is admitting sicker patients, or it has work to do to reduce readmissions—or both.

Though hospitals are financially responsible for readmissions, most of the care that can prevent them happens outside the hospital. That's why St. Joe's and its parent, Trinity, have been busily buying up physician practices. And despite the hospital's rising readmission penalty, Durfee believes the coordinated effort is beginning to pay off. She says that between January 2013 and April 2014, IHA reduced readmissions among its higher-risk patients by eight percentage points, from 25 percent to 17 percent.

"The Medicare penalties for readmissions have been a stimulant that drives hospitals, emergency rooms, primary care and specialty care providers, and other members of the care team to work together to provide a better transition from the inpatient to the outpatient setting," says Durfee. "This is good for patients in that it supports them to manage the transition from the hospital to the comfort and familiarity of their homes."

Durfee's national colleagues may be very interested in her results. While published studies about reducing readmissions exist, there's a "paucity" of high-quality trials to evaluate interventions, according to a 2011 review paper from Northwestern University that examined thirty-six years' worth of such efforts.

The Northwestern authors concluded that post-discharge telephone calls were part of the most successful bundled interventions, but they couldn't identify any single intervention or group of efforts that reliably worked in cutting readmissions.

Avoiding Medicare's penalties is not about to get any easier for either Ann Arbor hospital. The agency is adding penalties for high readmission rates for hip and knee replacement patients in certain geographic locations, and it may not be long before the new categories are applied universally. Washington plans to add chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to that penalty list in 2016. More procedures can be added to the penalty list in the future.

Both hospitals do have reason to be hopeful, however. They already have fairly favorable readmission rates for hip and knee replacements, at or slightly below the national average of 5.4 percent.

POM is also having success with just the kind of coordinated services that the Affordable Care Act envisioned. According to Bowers, its hip and knee replacement patients who got an early start on post-surgical therapy and then continued on the aggressive therapy after they moved to a skilled nursing facility went home in an average of seventeen days, while those who did not averaged twenty-nine days.

Though few patients realize it, Physicians of Michigan now includes almost every doctor who treats adults in the Ann Arbor area.

Of course, some factors influencing readmissions are beyond any hospital's control. Hospitals who have more patients who are poor—which often translates to more chronic and mental illnesses, weak social support, and less access to primary care and healthy food—say they're at an unfair disadvantage.

There's also the issue of people making end-of-life decisions, like entering hospice, instead of seeking an ever-more-elusive cure for what ails them.

Another solution to curbing revolving-door admissions may be to employ more palliative care specialists, doctors who are trained to provide comfort measures, to see the sickest patients.

Justin DeWitte, president of Residential Hospice, Troy, says hospitals in Southeast Michigan refer 2 percent or fewer of their discharged patients to hospice, when best practices say the referral rate should be closer to 6 percent.

"Many of those who should be in hospice are not educated about hospice, haven't been told the reality of their disease state, and haven't been empowered to make their own decision," says DeWitte.

Spahlinger agrees with DeWitte, and says doctors have a moral duty to talk with patients about realistic expectations from medical care. He cites a 2012 *New England Journal of Medicine* article that found a majority of patients with metastatic lung or colorectal cancer didn't understand that chemotherapy wasn't likely to cure their illness. In reality, it only offered them a little more time to live.

The instinct to seek a cure "is hard to change," Spahlinger says. "It requires a longer conversation."

When patients want to continue aggressive therapy, Medicare will continue to pay for it. But starting in 2016, the agency has proposed paying doctors for end-of-life conversations as well. ■

VOLUNTEER! DELIVER HOPE, FOOD, & A SMILE

Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels needs volunteers to deliver nutritious meals to the homebound. Your commitment is invaluable!

"My mom enjoys the interactions with volunteers. It's her favorite part of the meals." --daughter of an Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels client

- Volunteers (18+) are needed to deliver meals using their own vehicles to the homebound in Ann Arbor. Under 18? You can volunteer if accompanied by an adult.
- You choose the day (Monday-Saturday) and the frequency (weekly, biweekly, monthly, substitute)
- Pick up meals at our office and deliver a route of 10-13 meals, taking 1-2 hours to complete
  - Monday-Friday at 11:30 am
  - Saturday at 10:30 am

For more information or to download an application visit www.med.umich.edu/aamealsonwheels

ann arbor meals ON WHEELS

2025 Traverwood Suite F
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
734-998-6686
aamealsonwheels@umich.edu

Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels is a community supported program of the University of Michigan Health System

HEALTH SYSTEM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Partners in Justice

To the police officers, lawyers, probation officers, judges, and others who are committed to promoting safety and advocacy in our community. To those who have taken a collective stand to make a difference in the lives of survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Today, SafeHouse Center honors you all.

JUSTICE LEADERS
Don Ferris and Heidi Salter-Ferris
Ferris and Salter, P.C.
Fink & Valvo, PLLC*
David A. Nacht
NachtLaw, P.C.

JUSTICE CHAMPIONS
Charles W. and Linda Borgsdorf
Hooper Hathaway Price Beuche & Wallace
Lori Buiteweg
Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach & Buiteweg, P.C.
Ferguson & Widmayer PC
Matt Harshberger
Director of Public Safety, Pittsfield Charter Township
John Kline
Klein Legal Group
Marie A. Pulte, P.C.
Attorney at Law
Sally Rutzky and Naomi J. Woloshin
Nora Lee Wright*
Attorney at Law

JUSTICE SUPPORTERS
Terrence Bertram
Legacy Law Center
Thomas Blessing
University of Michigan
Susan Brown
Susan V. Brown, PLLC
Richard Conlin
Guy Conti
The Law Offices of Guy T. Conti, PLLC
William Crawforth
Family Law Project
Sally C. Fink
Attorney at Law
Larry and Karin Gagnon
Cameron Getto
Zausmer, August & Caldwell, P.C.
David Hutchinson and Kris Taveggia
Elizabeth V Janovic
Attorney at Law
Law Offices of Logeman, Iafrate & Logeman, P.C.
Legal Services of South Central Michigan
Veronique M. Liem
Attorney at Law
Peter A. Long
Attorney at Law
Angie Martell*
Iglesia Martell Law Firm, PLLC
Beverly and Aubry McCutcheon
Suzanne Wahl
Schiff Hardin LLP
D. Louis Weir
Kent L. Weichmann
Warren Widmayer
Ferguson Widmayer PC

SAFEHOUSE CENTER
*Campaign Co-Chairs

Support us today at safehousecenter.org

LOCAL MICHIGAN OWNED AND OPERATED!

Big George's

HOME APPLIANCE MART

FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1959

WOOD BURNING STOVES • GAS STOVES • GAS INSERTS • DIRECT VENT FIREPLACES

NAPOLEON ASCENT X36 GAS FIREPLACE STARTING AT $1499

NAPOLEON

NAPOLEON FIREPLACES
BRING YOUR SPACE AND YOUR FAMILY TOGETHER!

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM: 2023 WEST STADIUM BLVD. ANN ARBOR, MI WWW.BIG-GEORGES.COM 734-669-9500

INSURANCE AAA EXPECT SOMETHING MORE™

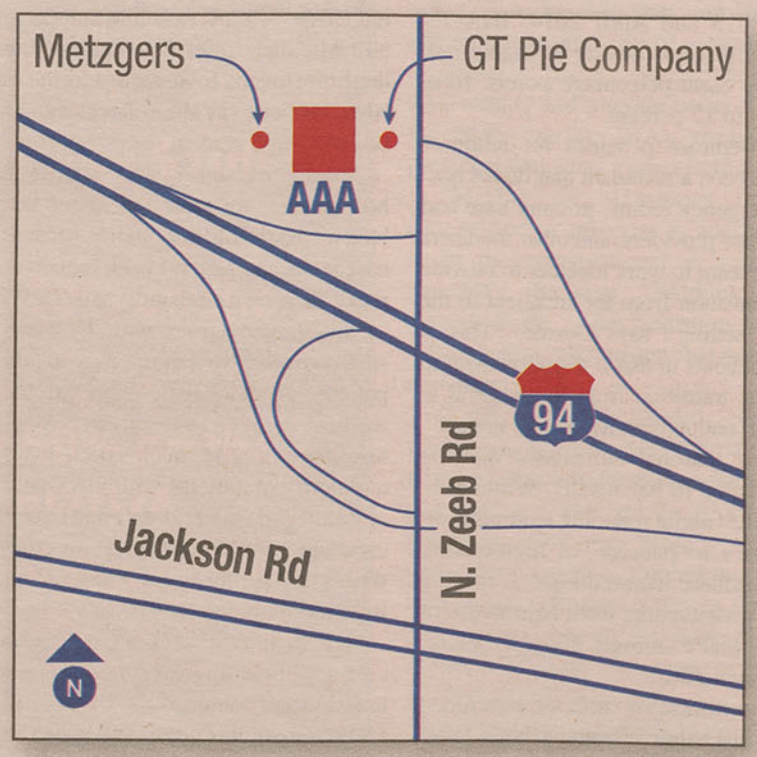
NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Auto, Home & Life Insurance through AAA

I'm pleased to announce the opening of my new insurance agency. I look forward to helping you with all your insurance needs from my new location, and advising you on the many benefits of AAA Membership.

Peter Baker Insurance Agency LLC
297 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor

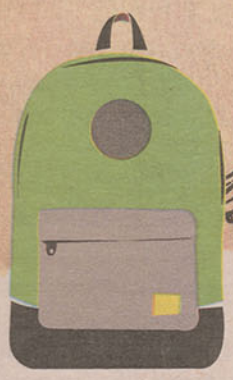
Peter Baker
734-369-4175
Fax: 734-929-2283
pnbaker@aaamichigan.com
www.michigan.aaa.com/peter.baker



Insurance Underwritten by Auto Club Insurance Association or MemberSelect Insurance Company.

FEEDING the STARVING STUDENT

PINCHED BETWEEN LIMITED INCOMES AND HIGH COSTS, STUDENTS ARE TURNING TO CAMPUS FOOD PANTRIES.



by ANITA LEBLANC

MARK BIALEK

MAIZE & BLUE CUPBOARD PRESIDENT ZOE HAWTOF KNOWS FOOD INSECURITY FIRSTHAND: "I HAVE A MONTHLY GROCERY BUDGET, AND SOMETIMES I EAT BEANS OUT OF A CAN FOR A WEEK."

A paper bag of produce and some small bags of chips and Doritos will help U-M grad student Gaurav Mehda be less vulnerable to food insecurity, which the USDA defines as the "limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable food in acceptable ways."

Mehda is one of several students taking advantage of the Maize & Blue Cupboard's free monthly food distribution at the Michigan Union. Recently arrived from India, he heard about the food pantry from a friend. "I followed the great American tradition and got a student loan for the semester," he smiles, borrowing $17,000—$15,000 for classes and books and $2,000 for living expenses—"and that's what I needed after I got a scholarship." The $2,000 plus a ten-hour-a week, $11-an-hour job at a university research lab have to cover both his food for the semester and his room rental in a four-bedroom apartment. The Cupboard adds some fresh produce into that tight budget.

"People assume that everyone who can go to Michigan is well financed," says Cupboard president Zoe Hawtof. "While there are many kids on scholarship, many go into debt so they can go to this university. I think every student hits it [food insecurity]. I have a monthly grocery budget, and sometimes I eat beans out of a can for a week."

"There's a lingering perception of [college students as] a twenty-two-year-old getting support from home," says Nate Smith-Tyge, director of the Michigan State University Food Bank, "when the reality is it's usually a grad student trying to get by on $1,800 a month." MSU's was the first student food pantry in the nation when it opened in 1993. Recently, as other schools began turning to it for advice on starting their own programs, Smith-Tyge and Clare Cady, Oregon State University's food pantry administrator, founded the College and University Food Bank Alliance. When it launched in March 2013, "we initially had seventeen student food pantry members," Smith-Tyge says. "Our last count was 219."

He sees a couple different factors driving the growth. "One is the recognition that [student food insecurity] exists. Sixty percent of grad students have families of their own with no support from home, are trying to make it on fellowships and grants, and are often not allowed to work outside their field. Post-secondary, nontraditional students—those who are working and returning to school—struggle to balance their studies, food, and home life.

"Another factor is the rising overall cost of tuition, future debt, textbooks, etc. And while some students do work and the economy has improved, there are a number of them struggling to survive on stagnant wages. There's not been a comprehensive study, but there are a lot of hard estimates and some extrapolations about on-campus food insecurity."

Feeding America, the nonprofit nationwide network of food banks, included college students for the first time in *Hunger in America 2014,* its quadrennial report on people seeking food assistance. Among households served by Food Gatherers, the report says, "28 percent of households report choosing between paying for food and paying for school loans, tuition, or other educational expenses at least once in the past twelve months; 13 percent face this choice every month … 7,600 full-time and 1,200 part-time college students were among the 44,500 clients served by Food Gatherers."

"Food Gatherers partners with three student food pantries in Washtenaw County," emails Markell Miller, the group's manager of community food programs. "All programs get rescued and donated food at no cost."

Liz Orbits, manager of Washtenaw Community College's emergency food bank, says her clients include single mothers and fathers, pregnant women, homemakers seeking work skills, and students with limited English. She allows that homeless students have been among the mix. "We see more women than men," she says. "The general profile is a twenty-to-thirty-year-old single mom with two kids."

WCC's pantry provided groceries to 109 students in the 2014–2015 academic year, up from seventy-eight in 2013–2014. Clients ranged from twenty to fifty-nine years old, and 75 percent were employed. The pantry provided sixteen turkey dinners ("We buy turkeys from Food Gatherers with all the fixings for a holiday dinner") and connected twenty students with WCC's Adopt-a-Family program, which arranges holiday donations of food, housewares, clothing, toys, and hygiene products.

Food Gatherers also supplies EMU's recently opened Swoop's Student Food Pantry. "Many students have limited income and many are parents," emails its faculty advisor, Julie Harkema. "As getting a college education has become increasingly expensive, some students need to make a choice between buying a textbook and paying for necessities."

The roots of the Maize & Blue Cupboard began in the 2014 winter semester. Wesley Zhu, Forest Burczak, and other members of the student entrepreneurial club Enactus initially set out to rescue food from local restaurants and grocery stores and distribute it to

Hollander's
SUPPLYING INSPIRATION SINCE 1991

Hollander's in the Kerrytown Shops 410 N Fourth Ave Ann Arbor 734-741-7531

Great gifts for dogs & cats!
Midnight Madness
December 4th
20% off all non-food items
DOGMA and Catmantoo
208 N 4th Ave, Ann Arbor • dogmacatmantoo.com • 734.929.0022

from the holiday grind to complete unwind.....
From full body massages to skin care treatments to waxing, spray tans, and nail services, the Bellanina day spa is an indulgent escape from the everyday.
Come and spa...
bellanina®
SPA. BEAUTIFULLY.
View our specials and order gift cards online
www.bellaninadayspa.com
201 N. Fourth Ave. | Ann Arbor | 734-327-1000 | www.bellanina.com

FEEDING the STARVING STUDENT

students and others. The plan shifted when they found that most area restaurants and grocery stores, as well as the on-campus Student Recovery Network, were already donating to Food Gatherers. After brainstorming with Food Gatherers, they decided to leave food rescue to the older group and focus on distribution.

Keith Soster, director of Student Engagement for Michigan Dining, suggested concentrating on grad students. "We connected with North Campus graduate communities by sending a survey link to and talking with resident assistants," Burczak says. "The results confirmed that grad students had food insecurity. We connected with Food Gatherers and arranged for them to deliver produce to distribute to students on campus and formed partnerships with churches to arrange monthly distributions."

The University of Michigan Student Food Pantry, as it was then called, held its first pilot run at the Christian Reformed Church on Broadway in April 2014. That summer it partnered with Student Food Co., a student group that runs a weekly produce stand at Haven Hall. Soon after, Burczak says, they changed the name to the Maize & Blue Cupboard to clarify its identify as a student-, rather than university-run, organization. Zoe Hawtof, who is also the vice president of marketing for the Student Food Co., says "cupboard" also carries less stigma.

Zhu says that the initial food distribution confirmed that grad students, especially those trying to support families, were the largest population in need, followed by students living in off-campus co-operative housing without meal plans. The Cupboard held its first regular distribution in November 2014, moved to the First Baptist Church, and continued through the end of the university's winter semester in April.

When the volunteers resumed this September, "we wanted an on-campus, nondenominational location, so we moved the distribution to the Michigan Union," he explains. The Cupboard is open on the third Wednesday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. "We generally have five to six Circle K [campus Kiwanis] and other U-M student volunteers that help unload the truck and then help distribute mostly bread, produce, and a few canned goods to the thirty to forty students that come." Any leftovers are delivered to the local Salvation Army for its pantry the next day.

Zhu and Burczak are getting ready to leave the Cupboard as they near graduation. That's one reason they aligned with Hawtof, who says that she's one of the youngest people on board.

"Right now, all our food is donated. We get some university funding and don't pay rent for the [space at the] Union," she explains. "We definitely want to be a charity nonprofit, to be more a part of the university, and slowly work with dining services and incorporate more with U-M … We'll be in the Union for at least a year or two, depending on funding and how it goes with 501c3 [IRS nonprofit status]. That will let us know whether we can afford a facility for dairy, milk, eggs, and meat."

"We're looking to increase both the amount of food given away and the frequency of distributions," Burczak says. "But we're scaling this based on the demand. We want to make sure that every distribution has a strong number of recipients. We expect this year the food amount given to increase significantly, but it will be another school year before we can increase the frequency of distributions."

CUPBOARD CO-FOUNDER WESLEY ZHU SAYS THE INITIAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONFIRMED THAT GRAD STUDENTS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH FAMILIES, WERE THE LARGEST POPULATION IN NEED.

WCC's emergency food pantry, established in 2001, was the county's first college food pantry. Located in a small room within the Student Resource and Women's Center, it initially stocked only nonperishable foods from Food Gatherers. It has since branched out to include hygiene products as well as diapers, cleaning, and laundry supplies, paper towels, and toilet paper, all items that families need but are rarely available at other food pantries.

In addition to Food Gatherers, Orbits emails, "Several times a year, the congregation at the First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor brings us hygiene and food items. The Richard Bailey Library does a 'Food for Fines' program a couple times of year. The library will offer to waive past due book fines up to seven dollars to students who bring in canned food donations. Students and faculty also provide donations.

"Students can get two bags twice a semester as long as they are on our caseload. We consider ourselves an emergency food pantry, so we try and get students connected to community pantries, but they can use it as long as they are at WCC."

Students are usually referred by a campus social work case manager, but some-

times an email from a faculty member will set the wheels in motion.

Bonnie Arnett, who teaches developmental reading at WCC's Academic and Career Skills department, is one faculty member who's made referrals. She says the typical student she sees in need of help is "a single mom, pregnant, with one or two kids, whose partner has walked out on her."

In the past, Arnett identified students to refer based on their class writing assignments. So as not to single out one student, she would tell the entire class about the availability of on-campus food.

"We'd lose so many students who would react to [for example] losing their car and then quitting school. If they came to us before they quit, we could've told them about other options, including giving them bus tokens."

Now Arnett starts each semester by giving students a "Barriers to Being Successful at WCC" form. Child care, substance abuse, financial, work schedule, and other challenges are listed. Students can circle the problems pertinent to them and turn the form in anonymously, or supply their name, contact information, and signature for permission to be directed to WCC resource staff for help.

"We get it out of the way early," Arnett explains. "We don't need to lose them mid-semester when preventive action could help."

Food Gatherers' Smith points out that most college students aren't eligible for the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps), "however, there are specific exemptions that allow some students to receive them. These include those who work [at least twenty hours a week], have young children, or are disabled."

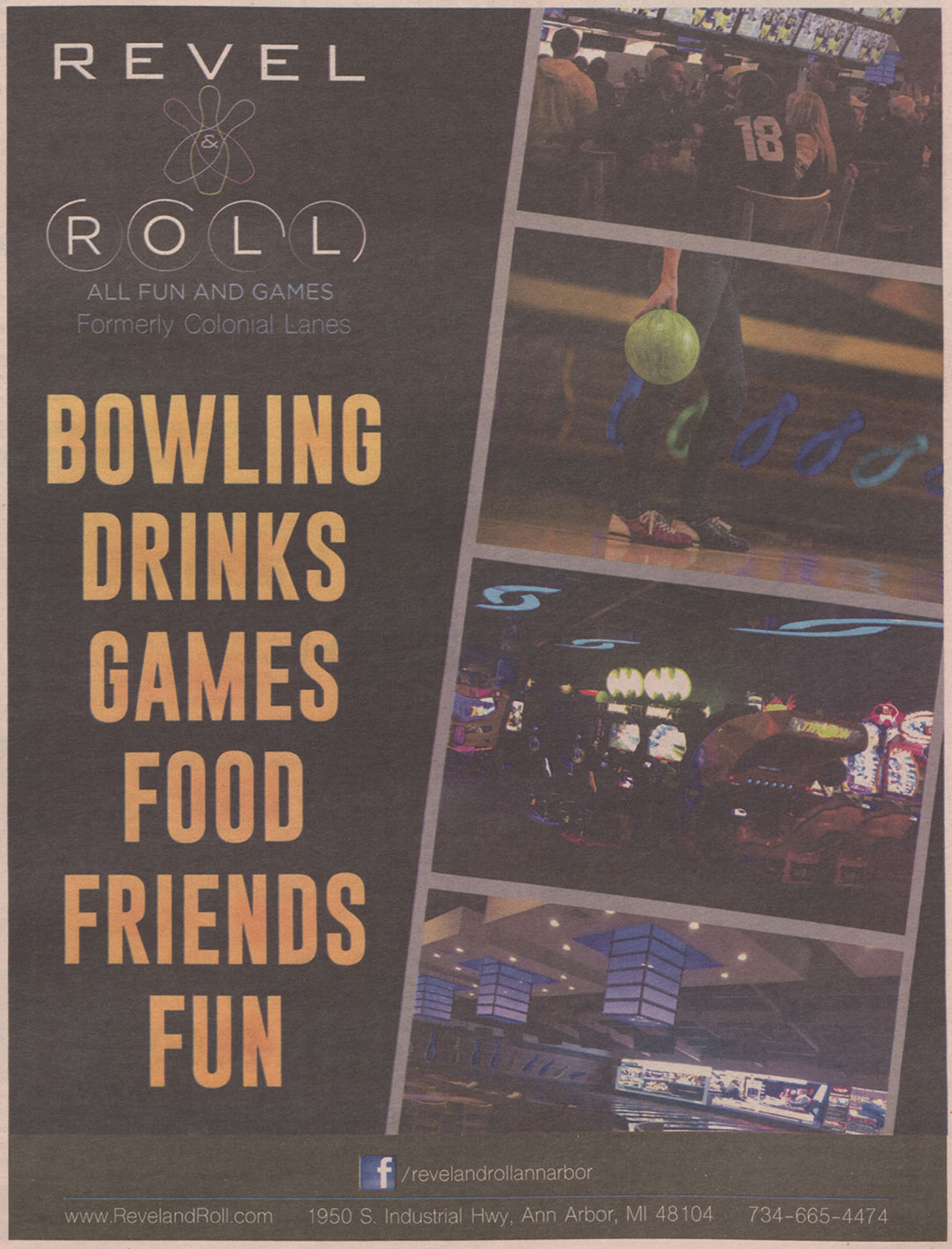
Others turn to food pantries in the community. "We're aware there are students in our mix," says Kathy Daly, co-chair of the weekly Back Door Food Pantry at St. Clare's Episcopal Church/Temple Beth Emeth. "I can't give you specifics. We've got a broad range of people here. Everybody's here for one reason—they need food."

One grad student spoke on condition of anonymity while waiting her turn to fill two bags with perishable and nonperishable food at the Back Door pantry. "Frances," an out-of-state senior who will graduate this month, says she is not starving but using her resources wisely. "I'll have to start paying my undergrad loans. They're deferred, so I don't have to pay while I'm in grad school. Graduate school is very expensive, even with my scholarship. I've been fortunate enough that I haven't been hungry. If I had to make payments, it might be a different story. After graduation, we'll see what happens."

Frances says she doesn't feel any stigma about accepting free food—because she's been on the other side: "I used to volunteer [at a food bank] when I was growing up and had family members who were paid administrators," she says. "It's a very familiar environment for me." ■

mix carries Comfy USA, Chalet, Dress to Kill, Krista Larson, Transparente, Tulip, Alembika, Moyuru, Prisa, Grizas, Babette, Planet and more!
A curated collection of artistically chic clothing, accessories, and jewelry.
mix
128 & 130 w.michigan ave. | ypsilanti
2,4,5 nickels arcade | ann arbor
734.369.6559 | mixthestore.com
Sun 12-5pm | Mon–Sat 11–6pm
two convenient locations

Achatz HANDMADE PIE CO.
Three Easy Ways to order your Holiday Pies:
✦ At achatzpies.com
✦ Call 734-369-2460
✦ Stop in and see us!
Over 38 flavors!
Our signature Michigan 4-Berry pie made with less than ten ingredients
2643 Plymouth Road • Ann Arbor, MI
PH: 734.369.2460 • WEB: achatzpies.com
Hours: Tue-Sat: 9am-8pm
Sun-Mon: 11am-6pm
Achatz pronounced like "jackets"



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan

1432 Washtenaw Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734 • 662 • 4466

Celebrate the Newborn King at this festival of Christmas hymns, carols, and solo organ repertoire by composers Michael Burkhardt, J. S. Bach, Johannes Brahms, and Louis-Claude Daquin.

www.firstpresbyterian.org

convenience
AUTO SERVICE

Convenience Auto Service is proud to announce that Corky Zaron has joined our staff as service advisor and office manager

Corky has been helping Ann Arbor motorists keep their vehicles safe and reliable for over 25 years. He will be glad to help you.

2280 W. Liberty
(W of Stadium)
Ann Arbor, MI
www.ConvenienceAuto.com

Subaru and Volvo Experts
Free Shuttle Service
Best Warranty in Town!
5-Star rated

734.769.0170

Voted Best Car Repair in Washtenaw County

Hear Better. Live Happier. in 2016!

Happy New Year from
O'CONNOR
HEARING CENTER
www.oconnorhearing.com

Call Today!
734-994-8300

203 S. Zeeb Rd. Ste 207, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Thomas E. O'Connor,
Clinical Audiologist
Claudia B. Williams,
Licensed Dispenser
Private Practice Owners

Midlife Crisis

The People's Food Co-op grew right through the Great Recession, but now sales are down and it's losing money. What's ahead for a beloved icon of healthy eating?

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

General manager Lesley Perkins says that when she was hired in 2013, the co-op had "been resting on our laurels … a lot of things needed to be changed." Sales were flat in 2013 and 2014—then dropped about 3 percent after Lucky's Market opened in February.

by Eve Silberman

Near the end of the People's Food Co-op's September board meeting, president Ann Sprunger asks general manager Lesley Perkins if she has "visions of the co-op you want to share with us."

"You're supposed to share your visions with *me!*" Perkins replies. A fair-haired woman whose soft voice shows traces of her native Scotland, Perkins launches into an account of how, "on my own time," she's driven employees to other food businesses, telling them, "I want you to walk through that front door and tell me what you see." She wanted to impress upon them the importance of an attractive store. Perkins enthusiastically describes how, in one store, LED lighting cast a glow on the produce.

The six board members in attendance look tired. A frustrating meeting, running late. They had discussed, without success, a replacement for board member Rebecca Kanner, who had recently quit.

When treasurer Matt Graff asks for a financial report, Perkins replies that it isn't ready. Someone says it's time for a new membership survey; someone else replies that the survey should have been completed a year ago.

At the meeting's end, vice president Gaia Kile complains, "We're stuck in minutia and mud and not getting anything accomplished." Board member Bruce Curtis says there's a "bad vibe." Perkins disagrees. "I didn't sense tension or bad vibes," she says. The board's "caring about the co-op—it kind of excites me."

Next year, the People's Food Co-op will turn forty-five. While celebration plans are in the works, its finances are nothing to cheer about. The member-owned natural foods store weathered the Great Recession surprisingly well, with sales rising from $5.5 million in 2009 to $6.5 million in 2012. It earned a total of more than $380,000 over the four-year period and returned more than $170,000 to its members in rebates. But in 2013 sales barely grew, to $6.7 million, and the co-op "lost money, a lot of it," Graff wrote in his annual report. Sales slipped slightly last year, and losses continued. While the board hasn't released any results for 2015, Perkins, who was hired in the spring of 2013, says sales fell about 3 percent after Lucky's Market opened in February. And there's apprehension about the impact of the new Plum Market on Plymouth Rd.

No one's talking about the co-op closing its doors, but "I am concerned," says former board president Linda Diane Feldt. "The fact is that the co-op is struggling because our values have become more mainstream." In the co-op's 2014 annual report, Graff cited a sampler of the store's products—certified organic produce, free-range eggs, and rBGH-free milk—and then listed a dozen other stores in town where a shopper could find them.

"Co-ops across the country had been double digit [in sales growth]," says former PFC manager Carol Collins, who now works at the National Cooperative Grocers Association. Today, she says, "They're single digit." Independent food co-op consultant Stuart Reid emphasizes that to survive in an increasingly saturated natural foods marketplace, the country's approximately 400 food co-ops "need very strong management skills" and a clear identity. "They need to promote and explain why it matters that they're co-ops."

In the early 1970s, most shoppers didn't need an explanation. Ann Arbor was an epicenter of the antiwar movement, the "Pot Capital of the Midwest" (to quote a vintage T-shirt), and a magnet for the country's restless young. In the parallel universe dubbed the "counterculture," rebels who sneered at existing institutions as top-down, corporate, and therefore corrupt, created their own information network (the Community Switchboard), entertainment venue (the People's Ballroom), and even health care center (at the Free People's Clinic, a story has it, a volunteer male doctor was "fired" for asking female clients to cover themselves).

Most counterculture institutions vanished long ago. Two prominent exceptions are Ozone House and the food co-op, which opened for business in February 1971, in a rented space on South State St. There, an all-volunteer crew "began selling peanuts, peanut butter, honey, sunflower seeds, brown rice and soybeans," then-board member Rebecca Kanner wrote last year in the co-op's newsletter. "Sales averaged $30 a week."

By 1980, the co-op had two locations: one near its current spot on N. Fourth Ave., the other on Packard (now closed). Living in a student house near the Packard store in the early Eighties, I happily bagged and labeled cheese for an hour a week, receiving in exchange a 10 percent volunteer discount. Standing around a long table chatting with my fellow baggers made me feel a part of the co-op—and a bit smug. I was making the world a teeny bit better, two dozen cheese bags at a time.

By then, paid managers were on the job and learning to balance idealism with pragmatism. Collins, general manager from 1994 to 2006, laughs when she remembers how canned tuna was "sold out the back door," furtively, because of the co-op's strong vegetarian orientation. She remembers battles over "selling sugar and even coffee because they weren't good for you."

Those battles had mostly ended by the time the co-op moved to its current location in 1993. "We went from having to police what people want to eat to [selling] what people *want* to buy," says Collins, who oversaw a subsequent expansion into the space next door. It now houses hot and cold takeout bars, grab-and-go sandwiches, and a fair-trade coffee shop, Café Verde. On the grocery side, there's less cheese and more frozen organic dinners.

The co-op's modernization continued under Collins' successor, Ken Charboneau. He installed credit/debit terminals, purchased energy-efficient freezers, and added craft beer. After he left in 2011, co-op

Viu Catalunya!
Live Catalonia!

A Cava & Castles Experience
Catalonia, Spain
Small-group tours
April 16-28, 2016
Barcelona, Gaudi, wineries, history, and amazing food

Your hosts: Ann Arborites
Josie Schneider & Conrad Knutsen
See video of the 17th Century villa where you'll stay:
housesittingtravel.com/CATALONIA

Serving Ann Arbor for Over 30 Years

gold bond cleaners

Quality Dry Cleaning & Shirt Service

332 Maynard St.
across from the Nickels Arcade

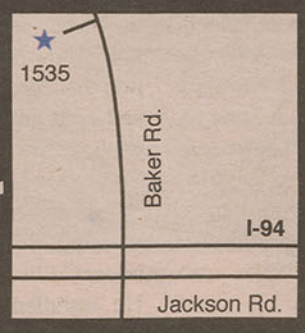
668-7017
668-6335

Your place or ours. . .

Snowblower Tune-ups
from $89.95 (our place)
from $129.95 (your place)
Exp. 12/31/15

Mobile Mower Repair, Inc.

Service Your Snowblower Before the Snow Flies



1535 Baker Rd.
3/4 mile north of I-94 or 1 mile north of Jackson Rd.

Mon.-Fri. 9-5
Sat. 9-1

734-426-5665
734-216-5599

Midlife Crisis

COURTESY PEOPLE'S FOOD CO-OP

The co-op hopscotched through four other locations—including this store on Packard—before settling in its current spot near Kerrytown.

When I first met Perkins in her basement office in July, the Eden Foods controversy was finally drawing to an end. Last year, under pressure from members upset with Eden CEO Michael Potter's successful court challenge to Obamacare's contraceptive mandate, the board approved a motion allowing members to vote on whether to boycott the company—only to cancel the vote at a subsequent meeting. Furious would-be boycotters circulated petitions to force a vote, but, when the signatures were counted, they fell short. An outspoken boycott opponent, Perkins complains about the "negative publicity" the campaign caused. The Eden critics say taking ethical stands is what separates co-ops from private businesses.

Perkins says she walked into a situation where the co-op had "been resting on our laurels … a lot of things needed to be changed." That included what she calls an "unwelcoming atmosphere"—she says customers were being put off by people who were "not taking their medicine" smoking on a bench near the entrance and vendors hawking the homeless community's *Groundcover News*. She removed the bench, and she told the vendors to move farther away.

Perkins cleaned up cluttered and disorganized storage areas, made changes to improve the kitchen's efficiency—including hiring bakers to work overnight—and added a cooler to the popular grab-and-go section. And she's proud that she integrated Obamacare health insurance and allowed new employees to receive it immediately. But she acknowledges tensions with employees who resisted other changes, like being required to wear a PFC T-shirt or apron.

The co-op has always had high turnover, so it's difficult to know how many people left because Perkins was unhappy with them or vice versa. The most prominent departure was that of the well-respected Sharp, a longtime co-op employee and its most recent interim manager. (Sharp declines to discuss his departure.)

Former co-op cook Daniel Michniewicz credits Perkins with reorganizing an unproductive kitchen and hiring a strong executive chef who "played a big role in turning it around." But he also says that Perkins's style had a "calculated shade of corporate" that didn't sit well with "a very crunchy and independent-minded bunch" of employees. Michniewicz himself left this past spring after running for a board seat in the aborted election.

I'm still a co-op member. For legal reasons, members can no longer do hands-on volunteering in the store, but for a $60 fee we get a sense of belonging, some discounts, and, in profitable years, rebates based on our purchases.

Members also select the board—but not this year, when for the first time the turnout fell short of the required quorum. Michniewicz, who considers the failure "a very big deal," points to the lack of a "concerted get-out-the-vote effort" and a

decision not to mail ballots to the entire membership.

The only immediate consequence was to make board members who hadn't sought reelection stay on—though Kanner subsequently resigned. (In November, the board was still seeking a replacement.) Longer term, though, it's worrisome if members feel less connected to the co-op—according to shopper surveys, we account for 60 percent of the store's sales.

When I stop by in November, I meet white-haired Maysel Brooks, who tells me she's been coming here from Dearborn for ten years. She says she now does most of her shopping at Whole Foods because it's cheaper but still comes here for a few items. Thirty-something Dory Mead also shops around—"I go to Trader Joe's, Kroger's, or Meijer's"—but tells me, "I like shopping here—I grew up here." The only member of her family who's a vegetarian, she's been coming to the co-op since she was a student at nearby Community High School.

In July 2014, Perkins submitted a lengthy "visioning" statement to the board. "The Co-op has weathered many storms over the last 43 years and could be seen to be going through a midlife crisis," she wrote. It was struggling with the

"I like shopping here," says a customer. "I grew up here."

questions "Who am I?," "Why do I exist?," and "Am I living up to my true potential?"

Perkins' statement included a long list of changes she'd already made. Her suggestions for the future included developing ties with local schools; creating "a private label product line of foods" to be sold at the Farmers Market; and starting a worm farm.

But the statement lacked financial data. The board, she says now, wanted "more spreadsheets" rather than the "general narrative" she gave them. She is now working on a long-term plan for the co-op.

"I desperately want the co-op to succeed," she stresses.

Former board president Feldt says the co-op needs to do more long-term planning. "That was true under my leadership," she adds. "I'm part of that criticism."

Asked why it hasn't happened, Feldt sounds uncertain, then offers two potential explanations: either Perkins is "not good at doing that, or the board didn't give her clear enough directions. I don't know which is true."

Even as a member collects photos for a forty-fifth anniversary book, co-op leaders will soon close another year of financial unease. And another election is coming up next spring. With five seats up for grabs, the co-op is accepting applications from members who want to shape the future of the city's most idealistic grocery store. ■

COURTESY PEOPLE'S FOOD CO-OP

Do you...hate your kitchen?

...want a smarter home?

...worry about remodeling?

We have a lot to talk about.

Meadowlark has free, fun, and informative home improvement seminars on the second Saturday of each month to show you just how to get the most out of your home. Check out **meadowlarkbuilders.com/events** to find out more.

Special thanks to Big George's

MEADOWLARK

Proven Expert, Proven Results!

Amy Freundl
Commercial Real Estate Agent

231-620-1932
afreundl@reinhartcommercial.com
office: 734-669-4100

Reinhart COMMERCIAL.com
Full Service Commercial Brokerage
Sales, Leasing, Site Selection, Income Properties

If your DASHBOARD looks more festive than your house . . .

You may want to stop by and let us take a look!

Happy Holidays!

Steve Steeb Service

734.930.2277 • SteveSteebService.com • Serving Ann Arbor Since 1992
2075 S. Industrial Hwy., Ann Arbor

Major Credit Cards Accepted

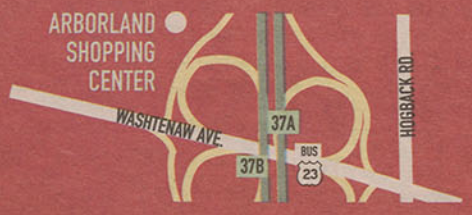
THINK LOCAL FIRST · ASE CERTIFIED · NAPA AUTOCARE CENTER

ARBORLAND CENTER

AMERICA'S BEST BED BATH & BEYOND COLD STONE CREAMERY CHILI'S DIVA NAIL SPA DRESS BARN DSW FAMOUS FOOTWEAR FIVE BELOW FIVE GUYS BURGERS & FRIES FIRESTONE KROGER H&R BLOCK JOS.A.BANK MARSHALLS MAURICE'S MICHAELS NOODLES & CO. NORDSTROM RACK OFFICEMAX OLD NAVY PETCO POTBELLY SANDWICH WORKS SLEEP NUMBER STARBUCKS TOYS R US ULTA BEAUTY

Easy In-And-Out Parking

Located in the heart of our community, just off US-23 at Washtenaw Ave. and easily reached by bus on routes 4, 7 and 22.



Do some HOLIDAY shopping

DECORATE your home

EAT a delicious meal or snack

All Your Needs, ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION

AmCap.com

3527-3795 WASHTENAW AVE. Ann Arbor

NEW RELEASE AT THE SALE
Charley Harper 4x8 Blue Jay

MOTAWI TILEWORKS

HOLIDAY MEGA SALE

SATURDAY, DEC. 5th
One Day Only, 10am–3pm

Bring this coupon to receive
25% OFF ANY ONE TILE
Discount applies to in-stock tile only, no rainchecks. Limit one coupon per customer, please. Offer valid only on Dec. 5, 2015 at our Enterprise Drive location.

Huge savings on perfectly imperfect art tile, prototypes, discontinued colorways, field tile overruns and more!

- Free, all-day make-a-tile workshop
- Hand-pressing and bulb-glazing demos
- Tile Talk by Nawal Motawi
- Door prizes, free snacks, and more!

Free Tileworks tours, every Thursday, 11am
Visit our studio gallery M–F 10–5, Sat. 10–3
Note: the studio gallery will be closed on Friday, Dec. 4.

Come early for the best selection!
170 Enterprise Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48103
734.213.0017 | motawi.com |

MARK BIALEK

Leaving the Vineyard

An evangelical congregation splits over gay rights.

by James Leonard

Ken Wilson founded Ann Arbor's Vineyard Church, and Emily Swan was a pastor there. When the national Vineyard banned gay leaders, they left to start Blue Ocean.

Ken Wilson founded what is now the Ann Arbor Vineyard Church in 1975, when half a dozen people gathered in the living room of his home on Walnut St. By 2008, the charismatic evangelical pastor was preaching to 750 people in a onetime roller rink on Platt Rd.

Last year, he left the congregation. Driving the split, Wilson says, was Vineyard USA's stand on LGBT rights: while lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transsexuals are welcome to attend its churches, they can't become formal members or be ordained as pastors, and Vineyard pastors cannot officiate at their weddings.

"What this really boils down to is exclusionary policies," says Wilson. "In the evangelical world you have to own the harm that the traditional policies have caused. It's easy to ignore until you're face to face with people.

"People can weigh in on the Internet and post their opinions. But they don't have to sit down with the two women who've formed a lifelong bond and are raising kids together. And they don't have to say: 'You can't be a member.' "

"I didn't know anything about homosexuality growing up in the Fifties and the Sixties," says Wilson. "My first experience as a pastor with people who were gay was they were conflicted about their sexuality and treated it as a temptation or an addiction.

"Then I started meeting gay people who were not conflicted. We started seeing people and hearing their stories, and once you hear the stories, you realize the biblical texts [condemning homosexuality] do not fit these people. The biblical writers were aiming at married men having sex with boys, slaves, and prostitutes: exploitative relationships."

So in 2012 Wilson began writing what became a ninety-page letter to his congregation, outlining his new understanding and explaining why he could no longer in good conscience observe the national church's strictures. "It was a pretty long letter, so many people didn't read it," he admits. "The majority of those who did seemed to appreciate the heart and thought that went into it. Those who were gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender were very grateful. Those who wanted the church to be fully inclusive were also grateful.

"Some respectfully disagreed with my conclusions but gave me an 'A' for effort. And some who supported my conclusions were upset by the prospect of displeasing or upsetting loved ones who disagreed."

There was also a financial impact, though Wilson says "it's difficult to tell [how much], since this occurred after I lost my wife, who was also a beloved pastor. Since conservatives on this and other issues tend to be more generous financial contributors, there's always a disproportionate loss of income when a pastor leads in the direction I did—and we saw that too."

Two years ago, Wilson expanded his letter into a book, which caused a stir in evangelical circles nationwide.

"If you're in the evangelical orbit, and you write on this question and don't toe the party line," Wilson says, "you're going to create a firestorm."

When Vineyard USA reaffirmed its policy against gay members and pastors, Wilson left the church. "With the support of the board, we sent out an email to the congregation that we're planning on planting this new church," says Wilson.

They held an organizational meeting last December, and the first service was in early January at Genesis, the building on Packard shared by St. Clare of Assisi Episcopal Church and Temple Beth Emeth.

"I'm friends with James [Rhodenhiser, St. Clare's pastor]," explains Wilson. "I'd remarried Julia Huttar Bailey, who served as the worship director [at St. Clare's] for twenty-three years. [James] is the one who introduced us. When we knew we were going to be planting I sent him a text, and I heard back from him very quickly: 'Do you need a place to meet?'

"Finding a place to meet was the thing we were most concerned about," he continues. "There're not many open venues for starting a church in Ann Arbor. And it's pretty unusual for a congregation to rent out their facility at the same time as they're meeting." (The new church worships in the building's social hall.)

Former Vineyard pastor Emily Swan, a married lesbian, joined Wilson as co-pastor.

"We brought our single moms director, Penny Johnson," says Swan—and children's ministry director Diane Sondâ, administrator Carolyn Kittle, and worship director Cassie Brabbs."

They don't have any ministries now, not even the popular single moms ministry. "We're trying to get the basic infrastructure up, trying to get Sunday morning working," says Wilson. "We'll eventually do some of those other things. Hopefully, we'll partner with St. Clare's and Temple Beth Emeth [to do them]."

When Wilson, Swan, and their congregation left the Vineyard, they joined the Blue Ocean Church.

"Blue Ocean is an emerging network of churches," Wilson explains. "The original churches were part of the Vineyard in the same way we were. There were about a half-dozen churches in the beginning: Cambridge, Massachusetts; Iowa City at the University of Iowa; lower Manhattan; Madison, Wisconsin. Some left for the same reasons—or were urged to leave."

Wilson says Blue Ocean "is all about connection. The blue ocean connects all the land masses. Nobody owns the blue ocean." Blue Ocean and the Vineyard differ on more than LGBT. "We're more focused on helping people from a secular background who have spiritual longings but are religiously averse to make a real connection with God."

"Our weekend attendance is about two hundred," Swan says. "We're trying not to grow, because we're trying to establish a church service and then grow a little more slowly and at our own pace. But we do have new people. Last week we had eleven new people show up."

Are any of the new folks LGBT? "We don't ask," Swan smiles. ■

THE VINEYARD NOW

"Of course there's a ton of pain," says Donnell Wyche, who worked with Ken Wilson at the local Vineyard Church for seventeen years and succeeded him as its senior pastor. "The idea of the founding pastor leaving his church and starting a new church was devastating."

Wyche, previously the church's executive pastor, says he didn't hear any comments about Wilson's letter to the congregation. "Ken was the person who was articulating it, so he was the one who was receiving feedback." There was a loss of financial support, but Wyche won't say that was in response to the letter. "When people reduce their giving, they don't send a note. A demonstrable correlation would be hard to discern."

Has attendance declined since the split? Wyche says that the local church has 1,100 congregants but doesn't share its weekly attendance.

The local congregation wasn't part of the exchange between Wilson and the national church, Wyche says. "Ken was managing that conversation, so quite honestly none of us had any insight."

Asked about the national church's policy on gay ordination and marriage, Wyche points to its website, VineyardUSA.org. A position paper there rebuts Wilson's biblical arguments to uphold a position it summarizes as "welcoming but not affirming" LGBT people.

Is the national church's policy also the local church's? "The church has the exact same welcoming posture towards straight, gay, or questioning congregants," Wyche says. "All are welcome and wanted!"

—*J.L.*

ARBOR VACUUM

Family Owned & Operated since 1974

HUGE SALE

Free Gift

WITH **MIELE** PURCHASE

Miele

Stainless 8-Pc. Steak Knife Set
$69.95 | #9468

WÜSTHOF

4-Pc. Gourmet Steak Set
$49.95 | #9729

CLASSIC 7-Pc. Block Set
$249.95 | #7417

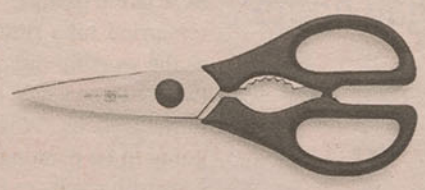
CLASSIC 7" SANTOKU
$79.95 | #4183

Great Gift Ideas

WÜSTHOF For Under $25

3-Pc. Paring Set
$14.95 | #9352

Come Apart Scissor
$14.95 | #5558



Hand-Held Sharpener
$14.95 | #2922-7

Buy any vacuum bag thru Dec 31 **get one free.**

* excluding Miele

1226 Packard St.	2990 Carpenter Rd.	295 N. Zeeb	9812 East Grand River
Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor	Ann Arbor	Brighton
(734) 761-3677	(734) 973-2990	(734) 761-3653	(810) 227-6617

www.ArborVacuum.com

Holiday GUIDE

I'm thankful for all the friends and family I got to see this year who live thousands of miles away. –Lisa

Discover, share, and savor the best of the holiday season!

Not sure if you've noticed, but the holidays seem to have come a bit early this year. I'm not even going to complain about the ornaments and plastic Santas for sale next to the Halloween candy and pumpkins at every store since October—I celebrate them! I'm resisting the scrooge within (uh, long lines, slick roads, gray mornings/days/nights) and committing 100% to celebrating the close of 2015. And with that commitment comes a handwritten list (rememeber? pen and paper?) with all the gifts I plan on buying for my family and friends this holiday. I wanted to mix it up this year, and shop local and unexpected for everyone on my list. Compiled below is a list of Ann Arbor's hidden and not-so- hidden gems, where you are sure to find something for everyone, and maybe a few things for yourself.

From all of us at the Observer, we would like to wish you the warmest and happiest holiday. We also want to share what we are thankful for this year, and what we are most looking forward to this holiday. What are you most thankful for?

A Beautiful Vision...

Give the gift of art this holiday season at the Ann Arbor Art Center!

Photo: Melanie Goulish

Support local artists and find the perfect gift at the 117 Gallery Shop, where unique, handmade works of art are available for purchase. Shop paintings, jewelry, ceramics, glass, holiday décor, winter accessories, cards, stuffed animals, and more! The Art Center is also pleased to announce the second annual signature holiday art exhibition Art Off the Wall. Running December 4– January 10, this exhibit features the work of 12 local artists and is displayed salon style in the 117 Gallery. Art Off the Wall offers a variety of media in a range of prices to fit any budget, and is designed to give patrons the opportunity to purchase original works of art as holiday gifts, or to build upon their own collections. Artwork is purchased directly "off the wall," creating an exciting and festive art buying experience. You are invited to join the opening reception of Art Off the Wall on December 4, from 6 to 9 p.m.

Ann Arbor Art Center

117 Liberty St., Ann Arbor • 734.994.8004 • annarborartcenter.org

Mon–Thurs: 10 a.m.–7 p.m. | Fri: 10 a.m.–8 p.m. | Sat: 10 a.m.–6 p.m. | Sun: 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Celebrate the Season!

Unique gifts & jewelry

The Pear Tree Gift Shop and gallery offers a selection of handcrafted items made by Michigan artists. This locally owned family-run shop in the heart of Dixboro Village is stocked full with a selection of unique products, including themed pottery, thoughtful home goods, boutique-quality clothing, patterned scarves, baby items, as well as other Michigan-made products. The Townie Knit felted soaps made in Ann Arbor are the perfect hostess gift (or stocking stuffer) and come in a variety of bold colors to choose from.

The Pear Tree

5153 Plymouth Rd. Ann Arbor • 734.585.5494 • peartreegiftshop.com

Fun for the whole family

Create a new holiday tradition this year at the family-friendly Guild of Artists & Artisans Holiday Art Fair Saturday and Sunday, December 12 & 13 at the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center. Showcasing 100 jury-selected artists, the Holiday Art Fair offers unique gifts, kids' gift-making stations, and holiday entertainment. Admission is $5, and kids 12 and younger are admitted free. The Guild of Artists & Artisans is a nonprofit with a mission to develop and present art fairs as educational, cultural, and entertaining events for the community. Presented by Ypsi Real, the Ypsi Area CVB.

Guild of Artists & Artisans

799 N Hewitt Rd., Ypsilanti, MI 48197
734.662.3382 • HolidayArtFair.com • info@theguild.org

A well-ordered and welcoming home

The perfect gift this holiday season is peace of mind with Chaos to Order. Let Chaos to Order assist in getting your house in order for the holiday (or help put it back together after), from single rooms to the entire house. Each space is met as an organizational challenge, with the goal of finding the most innovative ways to help you get and stay organized. Gift certificates make a unique and wonderful present for friends and family, and can be ordered for hourly services or packages.

From Chaos to Order

Lori Walters, Professional Organizer • 586.764.7692 • chaos2order1@gmail.com

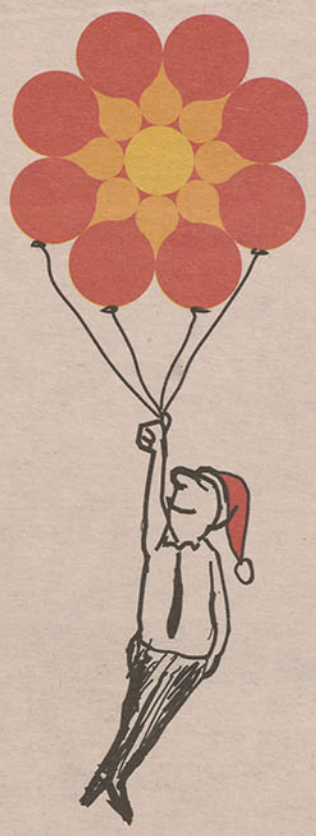
PEWABIC

HANDCRAFTED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

When it comes to Detroit traditions, there is nothing like receiving a piece of handcrafted ceramic art from Pewabic.

SHOP AT PEWABIC.ORG/HOLIDAYS

10125 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48214
P 313.626.2010
Pewabic.org



LIFT YOUR Holiday Spirits

SHOP OUR SECOND LEVEL.

Kerrytown
Market & Shops

Featuring over 20 locally-owned merchants
Open 'til 7pm Mon-Thur., 8pm on Fri; 6pm on Sat & Sun.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

KERRYTOWN® KINDLE FEST 2015

KERRYTOWN® KINDLEFEST
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th; 6–10pm

Our Annual KindleFest, a traditional outdoor holidaymarket, will take place in the Farmers Market featuringartisans and farmers selling their goods and wares for the holiday season. FREE EVENT!
Visit us on Facebook: KerrytownKindlefest.

FIRE PITS FOR S'MORES & WARM-UPS • LOCAL BEERS & MULLED WINE • BRATS, SAUERKRAUT & PRETZELS • LIVE MUSIC • LOCAL ARTIST'S GIFTS & CREATIONS HOLIDAY GREENS • FRESH FARM PRODUCE • BAKED GOODS

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th
Shops open 'til MIDNIGHT!

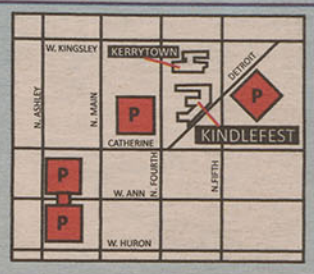
Throughout the Kerrytown District merchants are participating in this year's event with fantastic sales to help you get a jump on your holiday shopping!

CHILDREN'S LANTERN PARADE
FRIDAY, DEC 4th; 6:30–7:30pm

Purchase lanterns in the Farmers Market. $10 per lantern, or bring your own! Meet at 6:30 in the Farmers Market (look for lanterns). Parade starts at 7pm.

Kerrytown® DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
A Neighborhood Alive With History, Commerce & Culture

SPONSORED BY KERRYTOWN® DISTRICT ASSOCIATION



4th & Kingsley • Ann Arbor • 734.662.5008 • www.kerrytown.com

Discover More at Kerrytown Market & Shops

Shop local this holiday at 16 Hands Gallery!

One foot in the door and you'll see why 16 Hands has been an Ann Arbor staple for 40 years! Their selection, made by emerging talent as well as well-known artists/makers, includes jewelry and accessories, home decor, and gifts for cooking, dining and entertaining. Each piece reflects the focus of 16 Hands on original, finely crafted works—and the belief that beautiful, everyday objects, made by human hands, can enrich daily life. Shopping at 16 Hands is a one-of-a-kind experience. They even offer free gift wrapping.

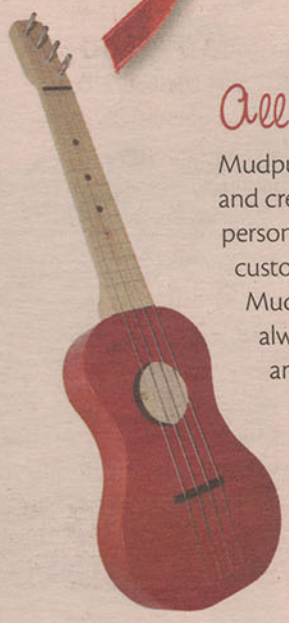
16 Hands will help keep your hands and feet cozy this winter with colorful, deliberately mismatched socks, mittens, and hats (thinking caps). They're all made by Solmate, whose motto is "life is too short for matching socks." Great stocking stuffers! Vintage plates with quirky animals like 'Maggie Maltese', are another example of the unique, American-made gifts found at 16 Hands. They are sure to bring a smile and are the very definition of a conversation piece.

16 Hands

2nd Floor, Kerrytown Market & Shops, 407 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor • 734.761.1110 • 16handsgallery.com

I am very thankful that my son Jake is alive and well enough to enjoy the holidays. –Julie

Fill Their Stockings with Cheer!



All the best stuff!

Mudpuddles in Kerrytown is an award-winning specialty toy store filled with smart and creative toys and games for kids of all ages. Shop top-quality toys, all tested out personally by Jan, Sharon, and Aiden before going into the store. They know their customers, and know their kids! Put down the iPad and pick up a puzzle at Mudpuddles, where using your noggin, being active, and getting outside is always the most fun type of play. Shop awesome family games, stuffed animals, books and enchanting puzzles this holiday season.

Mudpuddles

407 N. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
734.662.0022 • kerrytown.com/mudpuddles

Surprise and Delight...

Found: an unexpected collection for the holidays!

The Christmas Store at FOUND is a winter wonderland of snowy garlands, elves, vintage skis and sleds, ornaments, home décor, and stocking stuffers. Now located on the courtyard level in Kerrytown (facing Fifth Ave.), and featuring local artists using recycled and salvaged materials. For the vintage lover, the 1950–60 Vintage Rand McNally World-Master Globe is a great find. This small metal globe is great for a table or desk, and like a true vintage piece, shows some age wear.

Found

415 North Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor • 734.302.3060
foundgallery.com

I am thankful our new house is quickly becoming a cozy home. —Courtney

Refresh and Renew

Pamper yourself or someone special this holiday season

Pamper yourself or someone special this holiday season at Bellanina Day Spa. An indulgent escape from the everyday, Bellanina offers a variety of full body massages, skin care treatments, waxing, spray tans, and nail services. On December 4 Midnight Madness starts in the spa, and runs from 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. Stop in and save on all gift boutique items and gift cards, and learn more about the variety exclusive Bellanina® Skin Care products and services. A few of our favorite spa services? The Healing Aroma Glow Massage, which rejuvenates using custom essential oils and stimulates circulation by dry-brush exfoliating to remove those dead winter skin cells, while also improving blood flow and the reception of aroma therapeutic oils. The *Allure* magazine award-winning Lavish Tan will give you a nice winter glow with this signature organic airbrush tanning solution made from apple sugar. The sugar base ensures a golden brown color, eliminating all possibilities of an orange tone. The signature solution reacts naturally with each specific skin tone—even very fair skin.

Bellanina **201 N. Fourth Ave., Ann Arbor • bellaninadayspa.com**

The Heart of Downtown...

Give meaning

Give meaning and a cup of cheer at Ten Thousand Villages. Lovely in red and white, Lucky Rains Coffee Mugs are hand painted by makers in Vietnam and perfect for loading up with mini marshmallows for your big cup of hot cocoa on a winter's day. Or cozy up with some soup, because this mug is big as a bowl! Shop fairly traded gifts, home décor, jewelry, and art, all thoughtfully handcrafted by skilled artisans. Stop in during Midnight Madness on December 4 for 20% off storewide, and 30% off tabletop items.

Ten Thousand Villages

303 S. Main St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734.332.1270 • annarbor.tenthousandvillages.com

A Sweet Treat

The gift they'll never return!

If you want a gift they'll never return, look no further than Kilwins in Ann Arbor. Located in the heart of downtown, just steps away from Main Street, you will find custom boxes of exceptional handmade chocolates just under the twin orange awnings. Mackinac Island Fudge, yummy corns and brittles, and hand-paddled fudge are also available daily. Shop baskets and tins this season that are a perfect gift for anyone on your list, and see why Kilwins has been a celebrated part of Ann Arbor for over 30 years.

Kilwins **107 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor • kilwins.com**

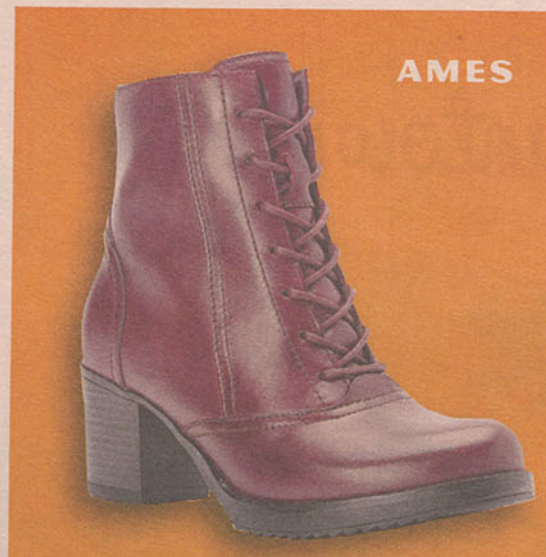
A Gift to Cherish

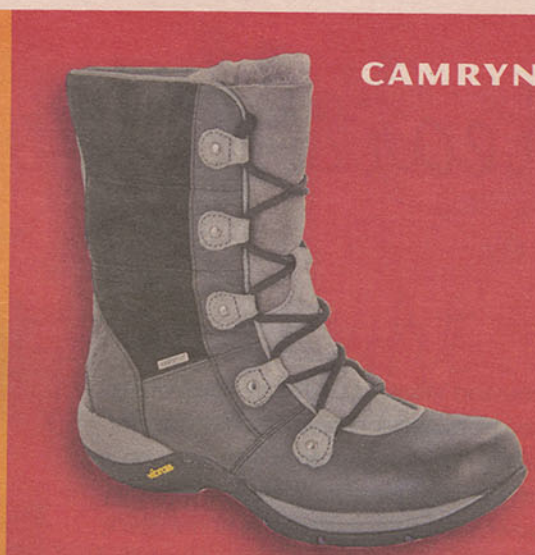
Unique and handcrafted

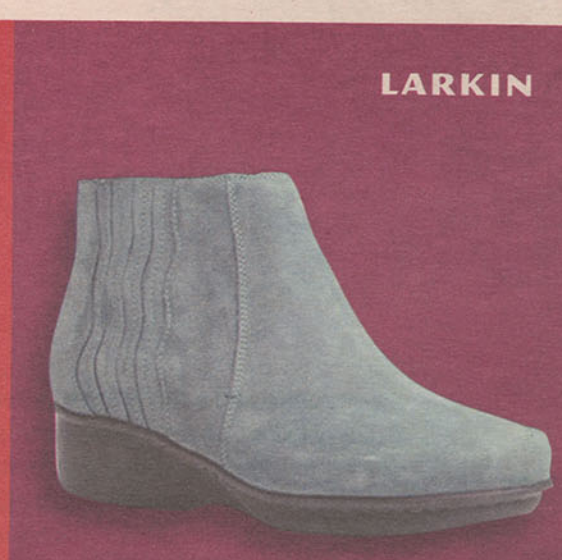
Since 1974 Abracadabra has been committed to carrying jewelry made from recycled metals, purchased at a local Ann Arbor refiner, along with conflict-free diamonds and ethically mined colored gemstones. Recycle, repair, or replace your jewelry this holiday season at Abracadabra, where they specialize in on-site repairs, appraisals, and custom jewelry designs. Featuring an exclusive selection from local artists and designer brands, alongside with custom Abra designs, this local gem will work one-on-one with you to create the perfect piece of jewelry to give this holiday, or add to your own collection.

Abracadabra Jewelry & Gem Gallery

205 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor • 734.994.4848 • abragem.com

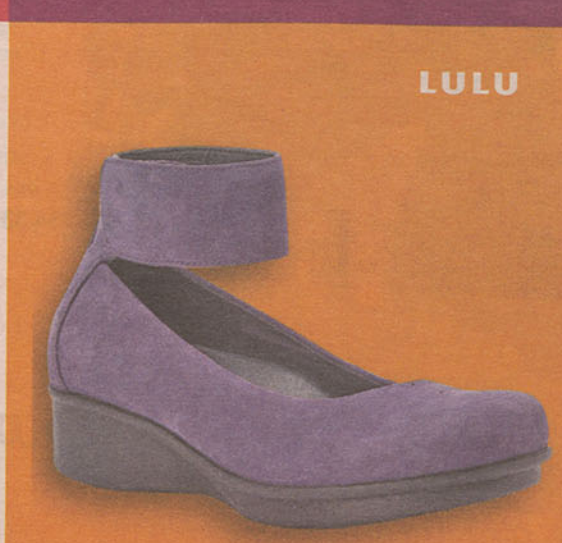


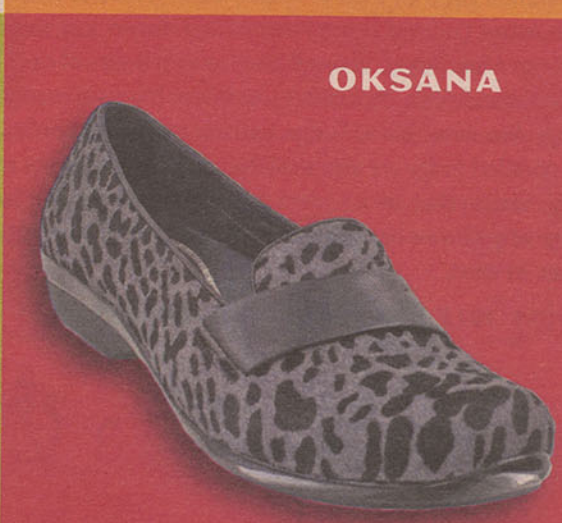




WHAT YOUR FEET WANT FOR THE HOLIDAYS

dansko®





NEW STYLES FOR THE NEW YEAR

MAST SHOES

COMFORTABLE AND STYLISH

Located in the Westgate Shopping Center | (734) 662–8118 | 2517 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor MI 48103 | www.mastshoes.com

Traditions to Share...

Give the gift that keeps on giving

Give the gift that keeps on giving, the gift that creates another gift, the gift that can change a life, by purchasing tickets to Performance Network during the holiday season. Performance Network offers two tandem productions this season, beginning with the Michigan premiere of *Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story* written by Tim Rhoze and running November 24–December 19, and continuing with the world premiere of *Dickens: An A Capella Carol* by Charles Dickens running November 27–December 20. Donations are always needed and greatly appreciated. Please join in helping this award-winning, professional nonprofit cultural center in downtown Ann Arbor by donating or volunteering this holiday.

I am thankful to get together with the family.
—Jean

Performance Network Theatre

120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor • 734.663.0681 • pntheatre.org

Memories to Make

A Boychoir Christmas

Continue the holiday tradition with The Boychoir of Ann Arbor, who are pleased to present the 29th annual performance of *A Boychoir Christmas* on December 12 at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor. Experience the unique and glorious sound of this outstanding local choir of all boys performing a variety of Christmas hymns and carols, with a special performance of Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* featuring harpist Brittany DeYoung. In keeping with tradition, the audience will once again be invited to join in singing "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful", each featuring a soaring Boychoir descant verse sure to get you in the spirit.

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor

First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor
734.663.5377 • tickets@aaboychoir.org • aaboychoir.org

Join us for a special Christmas Eve!

Come celebrate a special Christmas Eve service with music and readings in the King's College tradition at First Baptist's Festival of Lessons and Carols. Based upon the annual presentation in Cambridge, readings from the Christmas story are alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols. Service begins at 7:30 p.m., with free childcare for infants through kindergarteners. Parking in the Liberty Square parking structure.

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

517 E. Washington, 663-9376, www.fbca2.org

DISCOVER
THE HOLIDAYS
let's take a moment to
celebrate all that we have
to be thankful for
babo
for 10% off, visit BaboAnnArbor.com/holidays

CRAFTY REGULARS
ARE KNOWN TO
SAVE THEM
FOR DESSERT.
THE COMMON GRILL
MON CLOSED TUE-THU 11-10 FRI-SAT 11-11 SUN 11-9 SUN Brunch 11-3
112 S Main Street • Downtown Chelsea • commongrill.com • 734.475.0470
Now taking New Year's reservations.
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

A GIFT FOR YOU
For every $50 in gift cards purchased, you'll receive a packet of monthly offers valued over $75 for 2016. Blue Tractor & Mash gift cards make great presents for business associates, students, family and friends.
Remember us for all your private holiday parties
BLUE TRACTOR BBQ & BREWERY
mash
a bourbon, whiskey & beer bar
207 e. washington • 734.222.4095 • bluetractor.net
bluetractorbbq
mashannarbor

EXPANSION NOW OPEN!
Full bar, waiting area, more seating
cardamom
FRESH INDIAN
buy
GIFT CARDS
cardamomA2.com
"...far and away the highest quality Indian food...in metro Detroit."
—Metro Times
734 662-2877
1739 Plymouth Road
in the Courtyard Shops at North Campus Plaza
cardamomA2.com

Back2Roots Bistro

White-tablecloth vegan

If you dine out with vegans, you know that ordering a meal often involves more questions than an episode of *Jeopardy*. Is there meat in the soup or its broth? Butter in the cake? Lard anywhere? I'll never forget a harried stop at a freeway Cracker Barrel with my son's vegan roommate. With a menu not designed with vegans even distantly in mind, it was fraught with frustration. He'd have been happier if we'd just bought shelled peanuts and Oreos at a gas station for lunch.

Spiffed-up special-occasion meals are no time for endless Q&As, so I was intrigued to learn about the new white-linen and highly principled vegan Back2Roots Bistro on Main Street. Just a couple doors from Crazy Wisdom bookstore, it caters not just to vegans but also to eaters who avoid processed white sugars and flours, synthetic flavorings and dyes, and GMOs. The "roots" that co-owner Swaroop Bhojani says he's going back to are as ancient as the traditional Asian spices he imports.

An oncology research scientist by day, Bhojani says managing his own diabetes was part of the motivation behind the innovative vegan recipes he developed for his casual Hut-K Chaats on Packard, and now for Back2Roots.

I knew all the soups, entrées, sandwiches, and desserts would be preapproved for vegans and many other particular eaters. I wanted to know how mainstream diners would fare here.

There's a lot of good news on that front. All four soups we sampled were excellent; if I had to choose, I'd put the lightly curried mung bean and sprouted lentil first. The chili had lots of sprouted beans and flavorful tomato broth, with the spicing and full body you'd expect (although lots of big mushroom chunks might be a surprise). Special soups not listed on the menu included a hearty cabbage with smoky vegan "sausage" and a French onion with a light herbed broth.

Just a couple doors from Crazy Wisdom bookstore, Back2Roots caters not just to vegans but also to eaters who avoid processed white sugars and flours, synthetic flavorings and dyes, and GMOs.

The complex veggie burgers (made from scratch in house, like most everything else) arrive stacked colorfully high with everything from red peppers to shredded carrots to avocado and topped with perky microgreens. Of the two I sampled, the quinoa-dominant "Sunny Side Up" was eclipsed in flavor by a unique seared beet and sweet potato patty. First bites of the beet burger were impressive, its sweetness mitigated by the density and almost nutty flavor of the big bun made from sprouted grains. Fresh cucumber slices provided needed crispness but not enough to keep the texture compelling to the end. Luckily, a dining companion had ordered a wrap he was finding interesting but hard to finish; we swapped plates halfway through.

The wrap's "meat" was jerk-seasoned braised jackfruit. Again, the hearty density of the sprouted-grain wrap helped offset the sweet flavor and mushiness of the filling (which probably didn't need so much pineapple). Our server had told us, correctly, that the jackfruit looked and forked apart remarkably like pulled pork, but not that it was overpoweringly fruity. I'd recommend boosting the amount of jicama avocado slaw and giving the whole thing a blast of tart fresh lime.

Among the rice and noodle bowls, Himalayan basmati with crispy tofu, coconut curry, greens, and sturdy sprouted garbanzo beans seems a surefire pleaser for omnivores. I imagine vegans looking for fresh meal choices will be pretty excited by much of what they find throughout the inspired menu.

Because several of the entrées and juices at Back2Roots tasted sweet to me, I wasn't sure I wanted dessert. It didn't help to learn after dinner plates had been cleared that they were out of both decaf coffee and the intriguing-sounding cashew *panna cotta*. But I was not sorry to have rallied for sampling both the fresh-tasting coconut-fig-strawberry pie square and the remarkable chocolate terrine, with its dense cocoa flavor sweetened only by dates. Fresh blackberries and nuts were the garnish, giving a lovely finishing touch to the night.

Although clearly labor intensive to prepare, our meals seemed kind of pricey at lunch. The dinner menu is similar and even a bit higher priced, so it was surprising to see how much of a bargain the evening meal felt like when enjoyed leisurely in the quiet, nicely lit, and urbane space. Vegans and non-vegans alike should find plenty on the menu to discuss—and possibly ask about—at this elegant and visionary new dining option.

—M.B. Lewis

ILLUSTRATIONS: JOHN COPLEY

Season's Greetings From
COFFEE EXPRESS
19 75
ROASTING COMPANY
Founded in Ann Arbor
Roasting in Plymouth

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
December's featured entree
Chicken Skillet Pot Pie
Now Taking Reservations for
New Years Eve Champagne Dinner
One Price Four Courses!
\aut\ BAR
Discover what gay Ann Arbor already knows
315 Braun Court . Ann Arbor . 48104
734.994.3677 www.autbar.com

VIN BAR
Ann Arbor's Unique Wine Bar
LOCATED AT 111 W. LIBERTY
VinBar features wines from
Black Star Farms, Good
Harbor Vineyards,
and MAWBY.
20% off any 3 bottles of wine
now through December 31st!
www.vinbara2.com
734.368.9750

The Polo Fields - Ann Arbor
Welcomes you to our delicious
Sunday Brunch

Regular brunch seating from 10:00am-1:00pm
Call **734.998.1555** *for Reservations and Pricing*

Sunday Brunches

November 29th

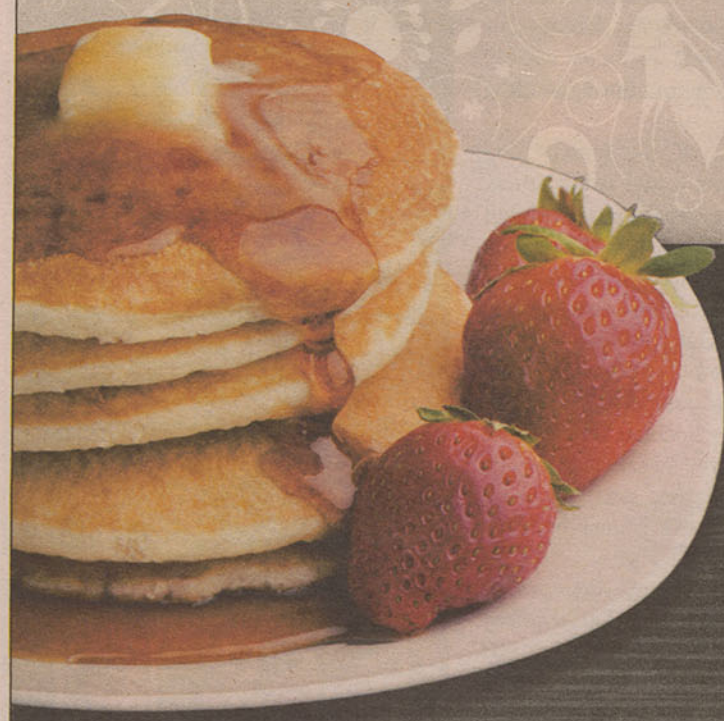
Dec 13th

Dec 20th - Santa Brunch
Call for special holiday brunch pricing

2016 Dates to Come!

Present this ad and receive half-off one Regular Adult Brunch with purchase of the same.
Call 732.998.1555 for reservations.

Non-member Prices: Adults $22.95 • Kids 3-12 $9.95 Kids Under 2 Free
Does not apply to Holiday Brunches or Santa Brunch. One Coupon per table. Expiration 03/30/16



THE POLO FIELDS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUBS
5200 Polo Fields Drive | Ann Arbor, MI 48103 | 734-998-1555
The Polo Fields-Ann Arbor and The Polo Fields-Washtenaw
www.polofieldsccmi.com
The Polo Fields Golf & C.C.

Back2Roots Bistro
108 S. Main
302–1555
back2rootsbistro.com

Soups and salads $3.95–$14.95; bowls, burgers, and wraps $11.95–$14.95; desserts $5.95.

Mon–Sat. 11 a.m.–9 p.m. Closed Sun.

Wheelchair friendly

Christmas Shopping

In search of a different a holiday dinner

For my husband's family, conversation—even the exchange of trivia—is highly prized, so dinner with the in-laws is always a lively, animated affair. The actual meal, though, might be less inspired. My own family's inclinations are markedly different, with the food on the table at center stage, prompting boisterous sharings over second and third helpings. The meals are equally convivial, but in a different fashion.

When my brother, the youngest, graduated high school, my parents fled 2,000 miles northwest, so, after I met my husband, most of our holidays were spent with his family at his parents' home in Dearborn. Their traditional Christmas dinner tended to duplicate Thanksgiving—roast turkey, unseasoned, with Pepperidge Farm stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, plain winter squash puree, Bird's Eye frozen peas with pearl onions, and soft rolls. Thankfully, the cranberry sauce was usually homemade, and the salad, served with a choice of bottled dressings, came dotted with good blue cheese. While I love my in-laws and appreciate the importance of tradition and continuity—and even conversation—I can't pretend those meals were the highlight of the holidays.

So when my in-laws moved out of their big house, and my husband and I began hosting Christmas dinner (and usually traveling at Thanksgiving), I vowed to bring some excitement to the food. There might be cranberries, for instance, but they'd be ground raw with fresh horseradish and made into a relish for a rib roast. Winter squash would be highly spiced, roasted, and tossed with a date dressing or mixed into a gratin. The centerpiece could be that rib roast, a whole fish, or braised goat legs. Neither peas (not fresh or seasonal) nor turkey (dry and dull) would grace our table.

We've served all those new dishes—and many more—since we started hosting, blending our families together as my parents moved back to Michigan and nieces and nephews began raising their own kids. We try to make each year different, even if some basic ingredients repeat. Often our garden dictates some side dishes, and this year I know winter squash, Concord grapes, and maybe even roasted poblano peppers will make it onto the menu.

The hardest decision is the entrée. With twenty-some people, it's easiest if the main dish is a big "something"—like a turkey, but tastier. Cooking six to eight ducks, for example, is a bit too ambitious if I want to enjoy the day too, although once I did roast duck legs, which were fairly simple and a big hit. Other factors narrow our options. One sister-in-law's family is Jewish, though not strictly observant; still, a crown roast of pork seems a tad inhospitable. Another sister-in-law doesn't favor lamb, though I don't always avoid it, particularly at Easter, which we've also inherited. As this Christmas approached, I realized that, after ten years of hosting, I needed to go shopping for new holiday ideas.

I stop first at the newly expanded Arbor Farms. While its prepared food and deli offerings have grown substantially—enhanced by a sunny, open café area facing W. Stadium—its best options for those of us making our own Christmas dinner remain the grass-fed beef and lamb from Manchester's Lamb Farm. I muse over the selection for a bit but decide that if my sister-in-law doesn't enjoy lamb and I'm not inclined towards beef, I better move on.

I contemplate vegetarian options—my Jewish sister-in-law leans heavily in that direction—but decide others (my mother, certainly) would miss the epic presentation of a protein-laden Christmas platter. I drive to Kerrytown, where, between Durham's Tracklements and Smokery, Monahan's Seafood Market, and Sparrow Meats, I'm sure to find something, if not for the entrée, then for hors d'oeuvres beforehand.

In the past, Mike Monahan has told

me it's hard to promise he'll have certain things for the holidays. The airlines, which fly in the daily catches from the coasts, make passengers a priority during the holidays, and cargo often gets bumped. Weather, too, can obviously play a role; fishermen don't go out to sea when the weather suggests they might not return. So, I look to his counter for appetizers—maybe raw oysters with salmon caviar, or smoked mussels and pickled herring, or salt cod to make *brandade,* the warm French fish and potato spread served on toasts. I could also pick up something equally delicious at Durham's—perhaps thin slices of smoked duck breast or Highland salmon, augmented by our Concord grapes in a spicy relish.

When my in-laws moved out of their big house, and my husband and I began hosting Christmas dinner (and usually traveling at Thanksgiving), I vowed to bring some excitement to the food. Neither peas (not fresh or seasonal) nor turkey (dry and dull) would grace our table.

At Sparrow Meats, Bob has an amazing slew of suggestions. He stockpiles the traditional cuts, of course—prime rib and tenderloin, crown roast of pork, turkeys, capons, and ham. He features plenty of geese, too, but I've never had much luck cooking geese, and I'd need three or four. My eyes widen when he mentions haggis, the savory pudding of lamb offal-and-oat-stuffed stomach; I had no idea Sparrow made this Scottish specialty, but in our family, neither side can claim such ancestry. I'd love to do a suckling pig—golden brown, with crackling skin, it would make a stunning presentation but perhaps be too intimidating for some. Finally Bob gets to the farm-raised game. I dismiss pheasant and guinea hen as too small for a crowd, but then he describes a method for cooking grouse and chukar partridge which sounds easy and delicious. My mother always fried or sautéed the birds my father shot, but Bob suggests a very long braise in a very low oven until the birds fall apart. I could even get a couple of venison racks and have a "game" dinner—domesticated, not wild.

We're just back from Morocco. Could I spice the braised birds with saffron and ginger and cumin and rub the venison with a spicy chili paste? I could stew a pumpkin-and-chickpea tagine or stuff some small squash with a fruit—cranberries!—and nut-spiked couscous. A roasted pepper salad is typical in Moroccan cuisine, and I can add a few poblanos for heat to the colorful mix of red and yellow sweet peppers. I'm beginning to like this idea and mentally add oranges, pomegranates, and mint to a green salad, along with a bit of orange flower water to the dressing.

Dessert will be traditional—my mother-in-law's English toffee shortbread, now made by her youngest son, and my great-aunt's Dutch apple pie, contributed by my sister. And we'll all be together—his family and mine—talking over a dinner that makes us notice, occasionally, what we're eating.

—Lee Lawrence

table talk

For M.L. Slater, a sixth-generation Ann Arborite, getting ready for Christmas has always meant baking "her" cookies. She'll whip up some delicate cinnamon stars, but it's *springerle* she's most passionate about. They require a serious investment of time—four days from first starting the dough, then reworking it, then molding it into rows of traditional shapes that call to mind European life in a simpler time. She says sharing her cookies with family and friends makes it all worthwhile.

Slater remembers when **cookie exchanges** at local churches, clubs, and workplaces—and even just among family and friends—were a holiday ritual. So she's dismayed to see them fading away. "Everyone's getting so busy—we're losing part of our German and Dutch heritage in this area, as well as the social aspect of networking around recipes and history rooted here," she says. The loss is even more ironic since an Ann Arbor group served as inspiration for local author Ann Pearlman's popular novel *The Christmas Cookie Club* and follow-up *The Christmas Cookie Cookbook*. Also, the U-M's Janice Bluestein Longone Culinary Archive is home to a vast storehouse of traditional recipes.

Slater isn't resigned to the loss. She recently reached out to Kelly Vore, owner of Downtown Home & Garden, and asked if the store would help keep homemade cookie-baking traditions alive, as it does for canning of pickles and jams. Vore says the store is willing to be a venue, probably in early December 2016, to let people "come together, share baked goods, and resurrect an old-time way of sharing recipes." Funds for charity will be raised at the event. Anyone interested in getting involved can send an email to info@downtownhomeandgarden.com.

Slater, meanwhile, will be making springerle with her six-year-old granddaughter this year. Sharing a favorite recipe is about personal expression, she says, and it's also about love.

—M.B. Lewis

CHEF'S TABLE

by Harriet Seaver

As early as 1900 B.C., folks living in present day Mexico were mixing chocolate and chili peppers into food and drink. I'm learning how hard it is to come up with an actual new food idea. It seems at best we're usually just "reinventing the wheel."

So where to start? Hot chocolate drinks are the most common use of Mexican chocolate, and we'll have some this winter. Molés of course; my recipe combines both Mexican chocolate and unsweetened baking chocolate (its slightly bitter taste calms the extreme richness). In molés chocolate is really a small part of each recipe, which can include over 20 ingredients. But, like salt, it seems to round out many of the other flavors rather than asserting its own.

Baking is a little trickier with Mexican chocolate as it doesn't really melt. I'm going to steep it in milk for a chocolate flan.

Chocolate, originally the food of the gods and the elite, didn't become affordable to the masses until the 1800s. It was so highly regarded that there are still special mills in Mexico where you can make your own secret recipe chocolate tablets. Hmmm…being a chocoholic, I may feel a vacation coming on.

BAKER'S CORNER

by Jessie Seaver

Growing up in my family, something didn't qualify as dessert unless it contained chocolate. Milk chocolate used to be my go-to choice, but now that sweet isn't the only flavor I'm looking for. My options have expanded.

When a recipe calls for "baking chocolate", it usually refers to unsweetened or bitter chocolate in bar form which contains little or no sugar. I find that this works best for brownies and cakes because of the intense chocolate flavor (look for higher percentages of cacao), and it allows you to control the sugar content.

It is the addition of sugar that creates bittersweet, semi-sweet, and sweet chocolate. It is most common to find these in chip form, which is perfect for cookies and bar desserts.

Mexican chocolate is a whole different creature. It has its own unique texture and flavors. Traditionally made from roasted ground cacao nibs, sugar, and cinnamon, it tends to have a more granular texture. I look for products with additional flavors like cayenne or chipotle to add extra depth and spice. My favorite brand is Taza because of their wide selection of flavors, but if I'm going traditional, I stick with Ibarra, which is still produced in Jalisco.

SALSAS & SAUCES

by Tim Seaver

Chocolate is a sweet that takes to spicing up very well. I have found the best way is to add various powdered chilies. I prefer powdered habañero since it gives plenty of heat and a pleasant fruity flavor. Powdered jalapeño is also good but has a more savory quality. If you want a lot of heat, powdered ghost pepper will really kick it up. Be careful with it, though, as it can really hurt.

I make spicy brittle and grind up what's left after breaking it. Coating truffles with it adds a unique flavor and crunch.

FATHER TEQUILA

by Jeremy Seaver

A recent Gallup poll revealed that 9 out of 10 people like chocolate – and the 10th person is lying. Chocolate is an amazing thing to pair with tequila because its history and flavors are equally as rich and complex. Most people think of chocolate as sweet, and milk chocolate certainly is, but actually the cacao bean is quite bitter. Mexican chocolate, used in cooking for molé and drinking in hot chocolate, usually retains some of that bitterness. This month we have two cocktails featuring chocolate: a sweet, the Mayan hot chocolate, and a bitter, the Italian job. Both feature a wonderful chocolate tequila liqueur: Patron XO Dark. Normally, I like my tequila straight up, but for this I'll make an exception. It's rich with dark chocolate and coffee, but not cloying, and it has a pleasant agave finish. It's a great holiday spirit. I'll leave you with some advice from my mother: put eating chocolate at the top of your to-do list in the morning, and at least you'll get one thing done today. Enjoy!

WE DELIVER! DOWNLOAD THE TIOS APP
TAKE IT EASY AND LET US BRING YOU SOME GREAT MEXICAN FARE.
ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.TIOSMEXICANCAFE.COM
open 7 days 11 am - 2 am
TIOS MEXICAN CAFE
401 E. LIBERTY, ANN ARBOR MI 48104
734-761-6650

Vintage home, farm house, and cottage furnishings.
Natural paint, art, gifts, and more.
Paint workshops available

boxwood
cottage and home

boxwoodbrand.com
3216 Alpine Street, Dexter
734.580.2069

Pure luxury

Introducing By Terry fragrances, hand-crafted in France. Available for the first time in Ann Arbor, exclusively at Lily Grace.

Indulgent gifts

Ann Arbor's source for the best in beauty, skincare and spa services for everyone on your list.

Book now

By Terry National Makeup Artist Event
December 10, 11 and 12
Call 734-761-9350 to reserve your appointment.

lily grace
Makeup • Gifts • Skincare
734-761-9350 | 306 South Main Street | lilygracecosmetics.com | Lily Grace Cosmetics

GCI
GRANITE CITY INC.

GRANITE
$35.95* AS LOW AS /SQ.FT.
WITH PURCHASE OF 45 SQ.FT. OR MORE INSTALLED (10 colors/4 edge profiles included)
Cannot be combined with any other offer. One coupon per customer. With coupon only. Expires 12/31/2015.

REMNANT
$19.95* AS LOW AS /SQ.FT.
RESTRICTIONS APPLY
Pick up price. Cannot be combined with any other offer. One coupon per customer. With coupon only. Expires 12/31/2015.

Visit Showroom at 31715 8 Mile Rd. • Livonia
www.granitecitymi.com
248.478.0033 • Fax: 248.478.0044
Mon-Tue-Thur-Fri 9am-5pm • Wed 9am-8pm • Sat 9am-4pm

A GIFT FOR YOU

For every $50 in gift cards purchases, you'll receive a packet of monthly offers valued over $75 for 2016. Grizzly Peak Brewing Co. and Old German gift cards make great presents for associates, students, family and friends.

JANUARY
FREE order of Cuban Sliders with any purchase

FEBRUARY
10% of your guest check donated to UM Comprehensive Cancer Center

MARCH
25% OFF all logo merchandise

APRIL
FREE order of our award-winning Bavarian Spring Rolls in Old German

MAY
Any growler of our hand-crafted beer, just $5!

JUNE
20% OFF your lunch guest check M-F 11am-4pm

JULY
25% OFF your guest check in Old German

AUGUST
FREE Pizza with purchase of an entrée of equal or greater value M-F, 11am-4pm

SEPTEMBER
Pick a FREE dessert with an entrée

OCTOBER
HALF OFF any burger

NOVEMBER
Warm up with a FREE bowl of our famous Cheddar Ale Soup with entrée purchase

DECEMBER
FREE Crostini Trio with purchase of two entrées

GRIZZLY PEAK BREWING CO.
+
OLD GERMAN
120 w. washington • ann arbor • 734.741.7325
grizzlypeak.net • grizzlypeakbrewingco • oldgerman.net • oldgermanbar

Marketplace Changes

by Sally Mitani

What the Heck Is a Cheese Bar?

Spencer opens a new artisanal frontier.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Steve Hall and Abby Olitzky met in San Francisco, but returned to his home town to start their business. After running a pop-up restaurant, they raised $33,000 on Kickstarter to give it a permanent home.

Abby Olitzky and Steve Hall, owners of the new restaurant and cheese bar **Spencer**, met about four years ago in San Francisco, where they had both taken a deep dive into northern California's famous artisanal food scene. She was a S.F. native working as a pastry chef at Delfina, and he was an Ann Arborite in exile, working at Mission Cheese around the corner.

Finding they both loved simple, rustic, locally grown, and pristinely prepared food, they decided to go into business for themselves. They couldn't afford San Francisco, so they relocated to Michigan, where he worked at Zingerman's and she worked at Sweet Heather Anne's while running a pop-up restaurant, Central Provisions, to make themselves known. A Kickstarter campaign raised $33,000 to give it a permanent home.

Olitzky still seems a little amazed to be in Michigan—a good sport, game to give it a go, but amazed nonetheless. Until pretty recently, "locally grown" in these parts meant mostly corn and soybeans for livestock: she must feel like a reverse pioneer.

When a Portland, Maine, restaurant also called Central Provisions began to gain some national traction, Olitzky and Hall decided to change the name of their business to "Spencer." It's one of those obsolete occupation words, like "cooper" or "drayman," this one meaning a person who dispenses or provisions groceries.

At the moment, Spencer is simply a restaurant that really trusts its cheese, with Hall as the cheese equivalent of a master sommelier. Meat and cheese boards will come later, when Spencer can serve wine.

The restaurant is still a work in progress. Without a liquor license in hand ("we wanted to have it by Thanksgiving, but I don't think that's going to happen," Hall says) they're reluctant to begin their dinner service, so for now, it's lunch only while they learn the ropes.

Spencer is in the former Wafel Shop (before that it was Café Japon). They've uncovered the bare-brick walls, torn out the drop ceiling, and covered the floor with white hex mosaic tiles. They've also given the insides a quarter turn: the counter is now on the short side, running east-west, as are several rows of tables arranged dining-hall style. But what the heck is a cheese bar, as Spencer calls itself on its Facebook page?

At the moment, it's simply a restaurant that really trusts its cheese. Hall is the equivalent of a master sommelier in the cheese world. Some of the cheeses he's working with at the moment are Bayley Hazen Blue from Jasper Hill Farm in Vermont; goat cheeses from Andante Dairy in Marin County, California; and a Wisconsin cheddar from Willi Lehner's Bleu Mont Dairy.

Meat and cheeseboards will come later when Spencer can serve wine, but for now, the cheese is baked into mac and cheese or grilled with tomatoes and dark greens. A late-October menu also featured roast broccoli with Romesco and fried garlic and cabbage-caraway hand pies. "Vegetable forward," is a phrase Olitzky likes to use. Here the cooks are also the servers: "I wanted to make sure [cooks and customers] made the connection. There's an educational moment there, if you want to have it," when cooks can talk about the food, where it came from, what they did to it, and why. She says she didn't invent the idea. "I've seen a few restaurants do it and really loved it." She names San Francisco's State Bird Provisions and the Progress as inspirations.

She adds that as they were delving into local history, they were delighted to learn that one of Ann Arbor's famous early twentieth-century groceries was Lamb & Spencer. Owned by Fred Lamb and Louis Spencer, their store at 318 S. State is now a 7-Eleven.

Spencer, 113 E. Liberty, 369–3979. Wed.–Mon. 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Closed Tues. spencerannarbor.com.

Sun & Snow Subdivides

Skis and clothing move to Jackson Rd., swimwear to Wagner.

"Skiing is a very technical sport," says Rob Parent, owner of **Sun & Snow,** the last real ski shop in town. Ski boots, for instance, aren't supposed to fit like street shoes, but "most people wear boots two sizes too big because they buy them in their U.S. shoe size." A foot that has too much toe room will curl the toes under, desperately gripping for balance on the slopes. "We call it 'the claw' "—he demonstrates with his hand.

Boots these days have heat-moldable linings, finished by an in-store process that allows many a big-box sporting goods store to claim a "custom fit," but Parent wouldn't call it that: "They throw it in a heater, put it on your foot, and ask for a credit card." He says the heat treatment is only the beginning of properly fitting boots—at Sun & Snow's workshop on the mezzanine of its new space in the strip mall in front of Quality 16, technicians can "reshape the entire boot to mimic the shape of your foot, like an exoskeleton." He shows the worksheet he uses to fit boots, which documents the position of every metatarsal.

Parent is a self-described nerd about details like this—he even takes his technicians on training trips around the world to learn from the experts. "We just got back from a boot-fitting workshop in Denver. We were working with behind-the-scenes techs from the Olympic ski and snowboard team." He's not a ski snob though. He quickly puts in a word for Mt. Brigh-

You Can Count on Monahan's!

Your Hometown Fish Mongers since 1979.

Come in and taste the difference... Wild gulf shrimp

The ONLY hand cleaned and fresh cooked shrimp in town!

Whatever your tradition, we'll help you celebrate! Whole poached salmon, smoked fish, oysters (whole and shucked), herring, lutefisk, eel, baćalao, ground kosher fish, shrimp cocktail, party platters and the most beautiful array of the freshest fish in the area.

Party with the best!

- **caviar**
- **salmon roe "ikura"**
- **smoked fish** *incredible selection*
- **beautiful catered platters** *Smoked fish, shrimp and poached salmon*
- **gift certificates**
- **t-shirts**

Spread a little cheer with our homemade patés!

"The fish market we wish were next door."

— Saveur Magazine, 2004

Now serving lunch fresh from the case to the plate!

MONAHAN'S

Seafood Market

www.monahansseafood.com

407 N. Fifth Ave. in Kerrytown

Open 7 days a week • **662-5118**

Follow us:

Gifts of Distinction

FILSON SINCE 1897

PENDLETON WOOLEN MILLS

Barbour

YETI COOLERS

dubarry of Ireland

patagonia

The Painted Trout has great gifts for everyone on your list, from cozy sweaters and scarves to heirloom quality-time pieces...

and from baselayer insulation to down jackets and vests.

Come browse our unique artisan-made gifts for the home, your dog...and yourself!

The Painted Trout ®

Fine goods for a sporting life

7940 Ann Arbor St.
Dexter, MI 48130
734-580-2102

PaintedTrout.com

Marketplace Changes

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Rob and Heidi Parent, who met in college at Western Michigan, took over Sun & Snow after Rob's dad retired. When Westgate needed their spot for the Ann Arbor District Library's expansion, they opened two new stores.

ton. "It has just enough vertical. Two-ten [210 feet] isn't a lot, but it's the best two-ten you can find anywhere," he says.

Parent and his wife, Heidi, took over the shop from his dad, Bob Parent, a ski bum who opened the store in the Seventies: "Back then there were multiple shops in town. We're the only one left standing." Parent senior moved the store a few times, eventually landing at Westgate in 2001. Rob and his brother, Alex, "grew up in the shop, but my dad always said the shop was his own dream. He wanted us to find ours." After college (at WMU, where he met Heidi) Rob did a stint in insurance, which was a rude shock—he had never been around a business before where "it was all about income." He came back to Sun & Snow, and his father recently retired.

A self-described nerd about skiing equipment, Parent shows the worksheet he uses to fit boots, which documents the position of every metatarsal.

The technicalities of ski equipment don't stop at boots. Skis too have seen an ergonomic revolution. A ski used to be shaped like a popsicle stick but is now slightly spoon-shaped, to cut a better turn. Does this make it easier to choose skis? Of course not—it multiplies the choices. Technical conversations—they can last for days—tend to take place on the mezzanine. Downstairs, where a south-facing picture window lets in plenty of sun, are clothing and accessories for both the slopes and the street. Parent particularly likes his Quebec-based Lolë line of women's tunics, tops, and dresses. At this time of year, even with the mild start to an El Nino winter, it is hard to imagine the "sun" part of S & S, but the merchandise does revolve with the seasons.

In 2010 the Parents opened a Sun & Snow store in Plymouth, and over the summer they moved the ski equipment and clothing to Jackson Rd. Their swim gear is now at a separate location, **Sun & Snow Swim HQ,** which they refer to as Sun & Snow Wagner: "Technically it's on Jackson Plaza; no one knows where that is, and it looks like it's on Wagner," Parent explains. While the Wagner shop keeps regular retail hours, it's a warehouse/showroom, where competitive swimmers come to be fitted for suits.

Parent says he's aware that "good customer service" can be a meaningless cliché, "but here it has a tangible result. It's not just that you come out feeling warm and fuzzy. If you have the proper gear, it's the difference between miserable and the time of your life."

Sun & Snow, 3780 Jackson Rd., Ste. J (Scio Towne Plaza), (734) 663–9515. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. sunandsnow.com

Sun & Snow Swim HQ, 462 Jackson Plaza off Wagner, same phone, hours, and website.

Anyone Want to Buy a Restaurant?

Sure, said two cousins.

On October 7, Ethan Pham and his cousin, Terry Phung, opened what may be a first in Ann Arbor—**VKitchen**, an all-Vietnamese, sit-down, open-for-dinner restaurant. Pham says "At first, I wanted a smaller one, like a deli, but it just happened."

Pham, thirty-four, was working at Foxy Nails in Briarwood and saving all his money to open some kind of eatery, though he hadn't yet started to look for a space. "One of the regular clients is a Realtor, and she came in one day and said 'Anyone want to buy a restaurant?' " That restaurant was Paradise Asian Cuisine, at

the Colonnade—it served mostly Chinese food, but a lot of the regular customers, including Pham and his cousin, knew that owners Victoria and Allan Tran were Vietnamese. The Trans were ready to retire, and Pham and his cousin decided to make their move.

Vietnam-born Pham says he grew up in Arizona and eventually moved to the Los Angeles area. "I wanted to open a restaurant there, but there's so much competition. You have to be really, really good or really, really cheap." He and Phung decided it would be much easier in Ann Arbor. Phung had already found his way here from Dallas and discovered that in Michigan Vietnamese food is a relatively unexploited niche. The nail business is actually still pretty good too, Pham says—much better here than in California. Like a lot of Vietnamese immigrants, he knows the nail trade. He had managed to get out of it and was working in Macy's in Orange County but took it up again when he came to Michigan. "Mimi [Tran] is a great boss," he says of the owner of Foxy Nails, who helped him with a lot of the paperwork for the restaurant. (She's no relation to Vicky and Allan Tran—"it's a common Vietnamese name.")

Don't neglect the drinks, Pham says. The fresh iced limeade, "sea salt plum with strawberry" and "basil seed, malva *nut, and grass jelly" are not from a can. "It's the real thing."*

Pham mentions, with some regret, that old Paradise customers are still coming in hoping to have a beer or glass of wine with their food. He and Phung didn't have enough money to buy Paradise's liquor license, though they hope to have one someday. But there's no mistaking that VKitchen is otherwise a very new restaurant. They painted—"I like black and white," Pham says—replaced light fixtures, and generally buffed it up a notch so that, despite the lack of a liquor license, it could visually pass for a real date-night dinner restaurant, though prices are in the lunch range. The most expensive thing on it, for $15, is "bò né," six ounces of marinated beef steak with "choice of sausage, egg, or chicken pâté" and topped with fresh vegetables and herbs and served with choice of rice or French baguette. Most of the more familiar pho, banh mi, and vermicelli dishes are in the $8 to $12 range.

But don't neglect the drinks, Pham says. The fresh iced limeade, "sea salt plum with strawberry" and "basil seed, *malva* nut, and grass jelly" are not from a can. "It's the real thing. We put basil seed in water. We try not to use preservatives. A lot of people used to Chinese food ask what's the difference, and I say 'fresh.' We use fresh vegetables and herbs. I get fresh vermicelli from the Vietnamese market in Detroit—I drive there twice a month."

Gratzi
An Elegant Italian Restaurant with Distinctive Style
We've remodeled! We invite you to enjoy our new ambiance and Chef John Fischer's updated menu.
Andy Jacobs
General Manager
HOURS OF OPERATION
Mon - Thurs 11:30am - 10:00pm
Fri & Sat 11:30am - 11:00pm
HAPPY HOUR
Cafe & Bar Only
3:00pm - 6:00pm
gratzirestaurant.com
(888) 456-3463

Gift Certificates Available

Purchase $200 in Gift Certificates, get $20 FREE

redeemable at both Mani Osteria and Isalita

341 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | 734.769.6700 | www.maniosteria.com
341 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 | 734.213.7400 | www.isalita.com

Motte & Bailey
Used and Unusual Booksellers
since 1996

Turn your Gift List into something...

Extraordinary

...with a little help from Motte & Bailey

Open
Mon - Sat.
10 am - 7 pm

212 N. 4th Ave
Ann Arbor, MI
48104

734-669-0451
motte@mottebooks.com

Gift Certificates Available

www.mottebooks.com

The Zingerman's Times

©2015 DSE Inc. December 2015 Printed in Ann Arbor Land of a thousand flavors

Cranberry Pecan Bread

This bread is a magic combination of the Better than San Francisco Sourdough with more than half a pound of pecans and dried New England cranberries in every loaf! Pick it up at Zingerman's Bakehouse, Roadhouse, & Delicatessen or ship from zingermans.com.

Coffee Holiday Blend is Here!

Zingerman's Coffee Company recently confirmed rumors that this year's Holiday Blend is a smooth, chocolatey coffee from Papua New Guinea with beans from Central America added for a hint of fruit. Available at Zingerman's Coffee Company, Bakehouse, Roadhouse, and www.zingermans.com.

BAKE! Zingerman's Bakehouse

Holiday Cookies Recipes Leaked ...

... by Zingerman's Bakehouse in a limited edition collection of 15 favorite recipes from BAKE's annual – and frequently sold out – Fancy Schmancy Holiday Cookies baking class. Available for $10 at the Bakehouse, Roadhouse & Deli or ship from www.zingermans.com. Makes a great gift!

Zingerman's Delicatessen	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3354
Zingerman's Roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 734.663.FOOD
Zingerman's Cornman Farms	8540 Island Lake Rd. Dexter 734.619.8100
Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's mail order	610 Phoenix Dr. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	415 Detroit St. 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.6060
Zingerman's Candy Manufactory	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095

www.Zingermans.com

Times sources confirm:

holiday dessert is a piece of cake

In a recent poll conducted by *Times* statisticians, 99.99999% of readers of say the best part of holiday gatherings is: DESSERT! This year, party hosts can relax and spend more time with family and friends, and less time in the kitchen, by reserving cakes, pies and cookies from Zingerman's Bakehouse. Check out www.zingermansbakehouse.com for the full menu of special holiday sweets.

hungarian coffeehouse desserts top holiday tables

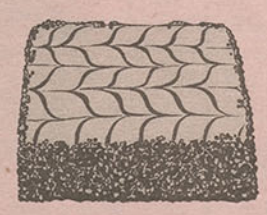
Buy a slice of any Hungarian dessert and get a small coffee for a $1, exclusively at Zingerman's Deli, Fridays & Saturdays, after 5pm!

rigó jancsi torta

Two light layers of chocolate sponge cake filled with chocolate rum whipped cream, iced with apricot glaze and dark chocolate ganache.

cardinal slice

Three layers of crisp meringue and sponge cake separated by whipped cream and créme frâiche infused with a sweet espresso syrup.



esterházy torta

Layers of toasted walnut cake filled with toasted walnut vanilla butter cream, decorated with fondant in a distinctive design used specifically for this cake.

Peanut Brittle Tops Gift Lists of Candy-Loving *Times* Readers

Is it the hearty, flavorful Jumbo Runner peanuts? Is it the sweetly satisfying crunch? Or maybe it's because Oprah's *O* magazine raved that it's "a light, airy, crunchy confection, handmade in small batches, features all the deep butterscotch flavor of traditional brittle but none of the teeth-cracking stickiness."

Ship peanut brittle coast to coast from www.zingermans.com.

Times Readers Say Cheese for Manchester Month at the Creamery

Local cheese lovers are all smiles this winter because they have many ways to enjoy one of Zingerman's Creamery's signature cheeses–the earthy, rich Camembert-style, Manchester–at special prices, all month long!

Zingerman's Creamery — $2 off the regular price of each, through December at the Deli and Creamery only!

manchester

Made with Jersey's cow milk, this gently pasteurized cheese has a creamy, fudge-like texture, perfect with a crusty Bakehouse baguette.

washtenaw

This cheese starts as a Manchester and after aging a couple of weeks is gently hand-washed in beer for a dramatic, pungent shift in flavor.

manistique

Wrapped in cabbage leaves,this take on the Manchester makes a dramatic presentation and enhances the earthy complexity of this cheese as it ages.

Zingerman's Take-Home Holiday Feasts!

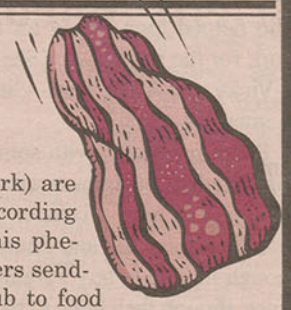
deli celebrates in spectacular taste

Get the special 2015 Holiday Menu at www.zingermanscatering.com or call 734.663.3400 for details.

roadhouse family feast out of the box!

Check out the holiday take-out menu at www.zingermansroadhouse.com or call 734.663.3663.

Reports of Airborne Bacon Taking Off From Ann Arbor



Sightings of UFP (Unidentified Flying Pork) are up across the U.S. this holiday season, according to a NASA investigation. Insiders say this phenomenon is the result of local *Times* readers sending Zingerman's Bacon of the Month Club to food lovers around the country for the holiday.

Available in 3 and 6 month installments, the club features "the country's finest slabs of hog," according to *Men's Journal*, and makes a "fantastic gift," says Bobby Flay. Each shipment contains 12 to 16 ounces of artisan bacon, bacon stories, histories and recipes, plus a bacon booklet keepsake primer and awesome pig magnet with first club shipment.

Ship Zingerman's Zzang!® candy bars, gelato, coffee, gift baskets, breads and more to food loving family and friends coast to coast!

for more info or to order:
888.636.8162 • www.zingermans.com

Cornman Farms Offers a Lesson in Holiday Cheer(s)!

Jolly cocktails class on thursday, december 10 or friday, december 11, 7-9:30pm • $70 • space is limited!

Times readers are signing up for a cozy evening of learning about traditional holiday wine-based beverages, perfect for ringing in the new year. They will make and taste three festive beverages, and have the recipes to recreate for holiday celebrations with family and friends. The evening also includes a light, savory menu of snacks made right in the farmhouse kitchen. Reserve a spot now!
events.zingermanscommunity.com

Marketplace Changes

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Terry Phung, his sister Angela Nguyen, and his cousin Ethan Pham. The cousins bought the former Paradise Asian Restaurant to open VKitchen.

Vietnamese is a complex language with five tones and you can spend an entire meal learning how to say "pho" correctly—Pham is very forgiving, and knows what you mean if you pronounce it "foe," but it's more like "fur" without the "r" and with a rising tone. Try saying "Are you wearing fur?" and take out everything except the "fu" and you've kind of got it.

VKitchen, 883 W. Eisenhower, 930–1988. Daily 11 a.m.–10 p.m. No website yet.

Briefly Noted

"Second song, White Album," murmured Observer writer and former music seller Jim Leonard when he heard the name of the new store opening in Arbor Hills Crossing. Owner Prudence Kauffman confirms that her store in Arbor Hills Crossing, **Dear Prudence,** is indeed an allusion to the Beatles song, but so is she: "My older brother got to name me, and he loved that song," she says—though she says she's astonished whenever a customer gets the reference: "As Beatles songs go, that one's a little obscure." Kauffman's original store is in Grand Rapids, where she lives, and this is her second.

Kauffman, forty-four, speaks frankly of her bout with uterine cancer several years ago, an experience that shook her up enough to start crossing things off her bucket list. One of those was to have her own store. Kauffman actually speaks frankly about a number of things. "I cuss like a sailor, probably because I work with men." In addition to owning two stores, she also has a "day job"—often more like a night and weekend job—designing lighting systems for events.

Brisk and to the point, she describes Dear Prudence as filling "a niche for women's clothing that is not crazy expensive but still looks cute. There are a bazillion boutiques where you can walk in and find something cute for $88, but not a lot where you can find something cute for $39." She also sells artisan jewelry in that price range, like a line of textured, sparkly earrings in subtle earthy colors. "They're druzy," she explains, meaning a certain kind of glittery. The finely textured crystal is "what you see when you crack open a geode."

Hot sellers right now at Dear Prudence are fleece-lined leggings. At $14, she says, "people come in and buy them in every color" (there are about half a dozen shades). Also, large square plaid "blanket scarves" ($24) that can be swirled around the neck or worn like a shawl. She gravitates toward clothes that are "loose, comfortable, lots of tunics." She also gives the industry name for the styling detail that has crept into so many tops and tunics lately: shorter in front, longer in back, they're called "high-lows."

When asked about specific brands, Kauffman isn't keen on discussing them by name. Part of the secret of navigating the complicated world of independent business is being a little cagey about brands. "We protect our brands. That's what we bring to the market. We have stuff that nobody else has." Instead of announcing them in print, she prefers that customers find out for themselves. "What's frustrating about chain stores is you end up looking like everyone else. People like shopping here because we'll have, like, six of something."

3030 Washtenaw (Arbor Hills Crossing), 436–4394. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. dearprudence.com

❧❧❧

"We're moving across the courtyard," says Mike Grob, owner of **Pictures Plus** in Westgate. His neighbor Sun & Snow has already vacated (see above). The adjacent AADL West Branch will be quadrupling its space, using the space from both stores. Scheduled to close November 20, it will reopen next summer, says AADL director Josie Parker.

Grob is the guy you want on your team if anyone ever invents a Trivial Pursuit Westgate edition. Except for its tenants, few people know the inside corner of the mall is called the "courtyard." His new space will

CHELSEA
UNDERGROUND
ART GALLERY

Current Exhibition:

JUDITH PECK "Emergence"

Judith Peck's portraits have a grounding in social justice. The exhibition includes an impressive collection of large masterfully painted landscapes as well.

More information on ChelseaUnderground.com

CHELSEA UNDERGROUND ART GALLERY

105 S. Main Street, Chelsea | 734 277 8747

AfternoonDelightCafe.com
artwork by danhackett.com

Give the Best of Ann Arbor

A gift subscription to the Ann Arbor Observer!

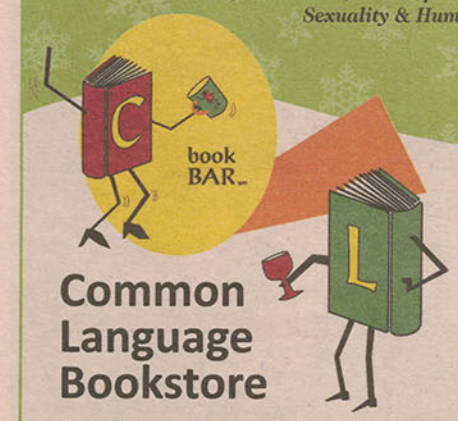
We'll send a gift card, and your family and friends will think of you each time a new issue arrives.

One Year: $20 • Two Years $30

Charge by phone: 734.769.3175

2390 Winewood | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103 | 734.769.3175
AnnArborObserver.com

Michigan's LGBT/Feminist Bookstore Local-Independent- All Welcoming
LGBT Fiction & Non-Fiction • Children's Books • Women's Studies, Gay Studies & Textbooks
Memoirs, Cookbooks, Art & Spirituality • Pride Flags & Jewelry • Free Gift Wrap
Sexuality & Human Expression • Calendars, Cards & Magazines
6000 Titles & Special Orders on Any Title
Gift Cards, Tea, Coffee & Hot Cocoa



Common Language Bookstore

Dec 4th is Midnight Madness and Kerrytown KindleFest

Holiday Catalog Featuring **10-20% OFF** *Selected Books, Calendars and Gifts*
Throughout the month of December

317 Braun Court • Ann Arbor • 734.663.0036 • http://lgbtbooks.com
Open at 11 AM Seven Days A Week

Too Busy?

We custom create premium cakes, pies, tortes, and over 70 other bakery items. Let us help you celebrate all of your occasions this holiday season.

Vegan And Traditional Special Occasion Cakes We Deliver!

BIG CITY Small World Bakery

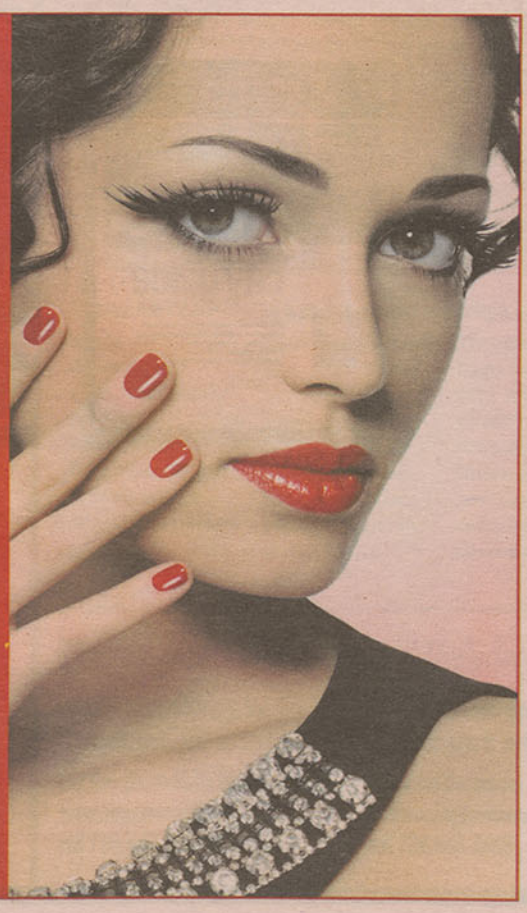
Mon~Fri 7-7 • Sat 8-6 • Sun 10-4
500 Miller • Ann Arbor
734.668.7688

Look your best this holiday season!

$3 OFF ACRYLIC FULL SET
One per customer. Not valid with other offers and cannot be combined with other coupons. Expires 12/31/15

$3 OFF MANICURE/PEDICURE
One per customer. Not valid with other offers and cannot be combined with other coupons. Expires 12/31/15

BEBE'S NAILS & SPA LLC
2410 E. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor
734.975.8870
bebesnails.com
FREE WI-FI flok



Marketplace Changes

be next to the Old Siam restaurant.

He also points out that the addresses on one side of the "L" are on Jackson and the other are on Stadium. That means they're on different postal delivery routes, so moving around the corner is going to give Pictures Plus a new mail carrier. Want more trivia? Westgate's TJ Maxx is one of the top-performing TJs in the country. "TJ Maxx classes their stores A, B, and C. The 'A' stores [like this one] get better stuff and more of it," though that's slightly dated information. "I probably got that from Don Van Curler," he says; the mall's former owner died in 2010.

Grob loves Westgate. "When I was growing up in Chelsea, this was a happening place. It still is," he quickly amends.

He and his wife, Nancy, run a full-service frame shop, with a wall of those beautiful elbows of frame samples—called "moldings" in the trade—as well as ready-made frames and photo albums. They also sell pottery: Nancy is a member of the Ann Arbor Potters Guild, and they usually have several of its potters on exhibit, as well as exhibits of the Ann Arbor Camera Club that change quarterly.

Ever wonder about those moldings, where they all come from? Grob says there are "about thirty or forty companies in the country that make them—this store deals with about ten or twelve." They're not to be confused with crown molding and the like that you'd buy at Fingerle's. "Moldings for houses are a completely different deal, made by completely different companies," he says, trying to suppress his shock at the comparison. One of the new entrants to the frame-molding field is local Paul Hickman of Urban Ashes, who makes art from downed trees. "Look at that. Solid walnut," Grob says as his hand lingers admiringly on a piece of Hickman craftsmanship.

Pictures Plus is now a three-generation business, with son Scott Godwin and grandson Andrew Godwin also working there. "That's something," he says, "but Mast [shoes] is working on four generations now."

Grob says the move should be complete before the holidays.

Pictures Plus, 2507 Jackson Ave. (Westgate). 741–1900. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. picturesplusonline.com

❧❧❧

Possibly inspired by Grob's mastery of Westgate marginalia, when we stopped for a cupcake at **Just Baked** we noted that it had changed its name to **JB Sweets & Treats**. Owner Debbie Baxter sighs, "It was just easier." When the Just Baked cupcake chain crashed and she took her store independent, her reading of the contract suggested she could keep the name, but she was eventually persuaded otherwise. For awhile the Just Baked bakery continued to operate as her supplier, but now she's getting most of her cupcakes from Be My Bakery in Westland, which rose from the ashes of the defunct Just Baked chain. The cupcakes are pretty much the same though—Be My Bakery was started by Just Baked's head baker Kay Seeney and decorator Melissa Lindsay.

JB Sweets & Treats, 2463 W. Stadium (Westgate), 585–5354. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–7:30 p.m. Closed Sundays.

❧❧❧

"We got price point!" says Shawn McBride, store manager of **Mattress Geeks** in the Colonnade. "But we're not that guy in a suit chasing you around the store" trying to upsell you on a mattress. "Yah wanna put somebody where they want to spend." Anything from a Tempur-Pedic or organic latex Savvy Rest mattress and box spring, for several thousand dollars, down to a $299 mattress and box springs set. McBride attributes his cocky speech rhythms to his Staten Island mother, though he's from California. "And we have financing." Can't afford a Temp (his shorthand for Tempur-Pedic) set? He'll sell you "matt only," if you ask. Or come on over to the other side of the store and look at a Sealy Optimum, a cheaper memory-foam alternative. "It's got nine-pound density. Yeah, that's comparable to a Temp, but I don't always say that. People who buy a matt once in their life look at you like 'what are you talking about?'"

Mattress Geeks is basically the Mattress & Futon Shoppe that moved out of Boulevard Plaza (the very part of the building Arbor Farms recently expanded into), part of a small regional chain. "Yeah, same company," he says. "It's a name they came up with for newer locations."

Out on Washtenaw, the Mattress & Futon Shoppe near the Benjamin Moore/Anderson's paint store also renamed itself **Mattress Geeks** last spring, says its store manager Randy Fazio.

Mattress Geeks, 887 W. Eisenhower (Colonnade), 780–7456. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. mattressandfutonshoppe.com

❧❧❧

Stuart Marley writes that he's in the process of moving his **Real Irish** store to downtown Brighton (it's been replaced by Dear Prudence, see above). "It's a great space with really good street visibility and foot traffic and still close to Ann Arbor for our local customer base." His Irish tweeds, knits, and jewelry are also available through his online store, realirish.com.

Closings

Peter Linden's **Investment Rarities of Michigan,** where he bought, sold, and evaluated coins and antique jewelry, was in Lamp Post Plaza "for over thirty years," says landlord Ron Marten. Marten says Linden sold his collections to other collectors and retired. Pet Emporium next door will be expanding into the space.

❧❧❧

The **Melting Pot** closed November 16. "The local owner wanted to sell the business for redevelopment," said a press release sent to the Observer. According to the company's franchising website, this one is listing at $250,000. The four-story fondue restaurant on Main St. opened in 2008.

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email sallymitani@gmail.com, or leave voicemail at (734) 769–3175 x 309.

© 2015 Porsche Cars North America, Inc. Porsche recommends seat belt usage and observance of all traffic laws at all times. Optional equipment shown is extra.

Dashing through the snow, in a 400 HP Sleigh.

The 2015 Macan Turbo

Over the Fields we go, 0-60 in 3.8.

The 2015 Cayenne Turbo S

Porsche of Ann Arbor
PorscheAnnArbor.com
2575 S. State St.
(734) 761-3200

PORSCHE

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. ***Up-to-date schedules are posted at AnnArborObserver.com,*** *but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.*

The Alley

2830 Baker Rd., Dexter 426–4707

This bar and grill (until recently known as Katie's Food & Spirits) features live music Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and occasional other nights. Also, DJ on Wed. 8–10 p.m. and karaoke on Tues. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 27: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late 1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalist Jim Paravantes. 6:30–9 p.m.

The Arena

203 E. Washington 222–9999

This downtown sports bar features live music Mon. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Laith Al-Saadi Trio.** An eclectic mix of roots Americana, classic rock, and blues, including many originals, by a jazz-tinged, jam-oriented trio led by local singer-guitarist Al-Saadi. His latest CD, *Real,* a collection of songs drawing on blues, country, gospel, and roots rock, was recorded in L.A. with an all-star cast of session legends, including saxophonist Tom Scott, drummer Jim Keltner, and bassist Leland Sklar. With drummer Rob Avsharian and bassist Jordan Schug.

The Ark

316 S. Main 761–1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional and roots music and contemporary songwriting. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office (mutotix.com) and theark.org, and at the door. **Dec. 1: "Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show."** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen leads his Washington, D. C., ensemble that plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and countrypolitan balladry. The *Austin Statesman-American* recently praised his "no-nonsense diesel guitar attack, powered by great booming, bottom-heavy licks still covered with axle grease." $20. **Dec. 2: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). **Dec. 3: Nessa.** This local Celtic fusion chamber jazz ensemble celebrates the release of its new CD, *Ancient Song Discovery Volume One.* Led by singer-flutist Kelly McDermott and bassist Rob Crozier, the band also includes multi-instrumental string virtuoso David Mosher, guitarist Kris Kurzawa, drummer Todd Glass, and Colleen Shanks on pipes and whistles. $15. **Dec. 4: Peter Mulvey.** *See review, p. 83.* Highly regarded folkie singer-songwriter from Milwaukee who is known for his complex guitar work, expressively playful vocals, and dark, vividly rendered lyrics. *Acoustic Guitar* called his 2004 CD *Kitchen Radio* a "moody, jazz-inflected" collection that is "engaging, down to earth, and utterly original." $15. **Dec. 5: Dick Siegel.** This veteran local singer-songwriter is an immensely gifted and versatile composer whose songs offer all sorts of immediate musical and lyrical pleasures, both serious and comic, as well as a resonant staying power. His live repertoire features material from his nationally acclaimed 2002 CD *A Little Pain Never Hurts,* his pugnacious 2003 EP *Fighting for King George,* early hits like "Angelo's" and "When the Sumac Is on Fire"—one of the best songs about Michigan ever written—and new songs. $20. **Dec. 6: BeauSoleil.** Led by fiddler Michael Doucet, Beausoleil is one of the most influential bands in the revival of interest in the Cajun music of French Louisiana. Its repertoire includes everything from Cajun, Creole, and medieval French music to zydeco, New Orleans jazz, island rhythms, and southern boogie. The band's latest CD, *From Bamako to Carencro,* explores the largely neglected African roots of Cajun music. A big favorite with local audiences, tonight they help both the Ark and WEMU-FM celebrate their 50th anniversaries. $25 ($50 VIP tickets include a meet & greet with the band before the show). **Dec. 7: The New Orleans Suspects.** All-Star New Orleans funk quintet led by longtime Neville Brothers drummer "Mean" Willie Green and Dirty Dozen Brass Band guitarist Jake Eckert. *Offbeat* magazine writer Robert Fontenot describes the music on their 2014 CD *Ouroboros* as "heavy NOLA funk on the bottom, some blues guitar up top, and a middle that alternates between soul and boogie-woogie." $20. **Dec. 8: "Decembersongs."** A trio of acclaimed Nashville-based Americana acts presents an in-the-round show blending storytelling with original songs and Christmas favorites. **Amy Speace** is a Nashville-based alt-country singer-songwriter originally from Hoboken whose music ranges from contemplative to rocking. **Doug & Telisha Williams** are a husband-and-wife duo known for their neo-honky-tonk story songs about the struggles of ordinary people in contemporary small-town America. **Rod Picott** is a New Hampshire–bred alt-country singer-songwriter whose songs have been recorded by Slaid Cleaves, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and Fred Eaglesmith. $20. **Dec. 9: Over the Rhine.** Energetic heartland rock 'n' roll, at once artful and urgent, by this acclaimed Cincinnati quartet. Led by the husband-and-wife songwriter duo of vocalist Karin Bergquist and bassist Linford Detweiler, the band is known for its enchantingly spare arrangements and its reflective, self-consciously literary lyrics. They also have some terrific Christmas songs they like to trot out this time of year, and their latest CD, *Blood Oranges in the Snow,* includes a cover of Merle Haggard's "If We Make It Through December" and a collection of originals the band refers to as "reality Christmas." $30. **Dec. 10: Iris DeMent.** This talented, idiosyncratic country-folk singer-songwriter has won the praise of everyone from Merle Haggard to John Prine. She writes simple, affectingly homespun lyrics about lust, forgiveness, heaven, home, and other fundamentals, and she sings in a warbling, pure soprano that soars and dives with a captivatingly unforced emotional authority. "These songs take their time, unfolding at times over five or six minutes, the words and music … slowly adding details that build a powerful feeling, picture or story. As focused on the big questions of life as the album often seems to be, it's also very first-person, intimate and direct. There are songs where her voice swells up, undramatically, with an almost inconceivable amount of emotion," says *PopMatters* writer Dave Heaton in his review of DeMent's 2012 CD *Sing the Delta.* She comes to town with a brand-new CD, *The Trackless Woods,* a collection of settings of Babette Deutsch and former Ann Arborite Lyn Coffin's translations of poems by the Russian Modernist poet Anna Akhmatova. $35. **Dec. 11 & 12: "Ebird & Friends Holiday Show."** Erin Zindle, the fiery fiddling frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band the Ragbirds who has also released a solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World,* is joined by several established and up-and-coming luminaries of the local music scene for her very popular annual program of new and old holiday music. Participants include the acclaimed nationally touring Traverse City teenage folk duo **The Accidentals,** Third Coast Kings frontman **Sean Ike,** Detroit singer-songwriter **Olivia Millerschin,** singer-songwriter **Jess McCumons** of the Understorey, guitarist **Andrew Brown** and violinist & mandolinist **Brandon Smith** of the Appleseed Collective, singer-songwriter **Jen Sygit,** dobro virtuoso **Mark Lavengood** of Lindsay Lou & the Flatbellys, bassist **Brennan Andes** & trumpeter **Ross Huff** of The Macpodz, saxophonist **Rachel Mazer,** and trombonist **Bethanni Grecynski** of Rhyta Musik. $20. **Dec. 13: Griffin House.** Ohio-bred Americana-inflected pop-rock singer-songwriter known for his intelligent, heartfelt lyrics and engaging melodies. Opening act is **Lee Coulter,** a southern California indie rock singer-songwriter. $15. **Dec. 16: Delbert McClinton.** Legendary Texas honky-tonk singer-songwriter whose music effortlessly melds country, blues, rock 'n' roll, and R&B traditions. A superb blues harpist, McClinton got his start as a teenager in the 50s backing blues masters like Howlin' Wolf and Jimmy Reed in San Antonio bars. Though his own records have typically enjoyed only a cult following, the likes of Emmylou Harris and Vince Gill have turned songs of his into hits, and he has recorded hit duets with Bonnie Raitt, Tanya Tucker, and others. McClinton's gotten even better with age: his recent recordings evince a relaxed mastery without losing the gritty swagger and drive that's always distinguished his music, and his 2009 CD *Acquired Taste* topped the *Billboard* blues chart. $50. **Dec. 17: Matt Jones & the Reconstruction.** Local band led by Jones, a popular pop-folk singer-songwriter whose acclaimed 2012 CD, *Half Poison, Half Pure,* is a collection well-crafted, emotionally penetrating songs about dark times. He has a brand-new recording, *The Deep Enders,* that he describes as a "a Civil War–spun sprawler of an album I've been making since I picked up an instrument." Opening act is **Frank Allison,** the beloved and reactivated Chelsea-bred rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter who fronted Ann Arbor's most popular band until he was forced into retirement by a vocal ailment in the mid-90s. $15. **Dec. 18: Billy Strings & Don Julin.** Old-time string music and bluegrass standards by the Traverse City–based acoustic duo of singer/multi-instrumentalist William Apostol (aka Billy Strings) and mandolinist Don Julin. "This is your granddaddy's bluegrass delivered with a pedal-to-the-metal intensity of a moonshine runner," they boast. $20. **Dec. 19: Blackthorn.** This veteran Royal Oak quartet plays a wide range of Celtic music, from contemporary Irish songs and traditional songs of emigration to sea shanties, lively jigs and reels, and haunting ancient airs. $20. **Dec. 20: Jorma Kaukonen.** A founding member of Jefferson Airplane and a leader of the early 70s progressive blues band Hot Tuna, Kaukonen is a brilliant guitarist whose playing blends the fingerpicking style of Piedmont blues master Reverend Gary Davis with the deep resonance of the Delta blues. His 2002 CD *Blue Country Heart* added old-time country classics from the 20s and 30s to his repertoire, and his new CD, *Ain't in No Hurry,* features a lost Woody Guthrie lyric set to music by Kaukonen and producer Larry Campbell as well as a killer version of the standard "Nobody Knows You When You're Down and Out." "Kaukonen's voice is a ticket to the rural past, his relaxed phrases making the most of an expressive,

jazz

Andy Adamson

In his element

Over the years, longtime residents of Ann Arbor have probably heard Andy Adamson performing in some capacity as soloist, sideman, or bandleader. He was a member of the Caribbean jazz troupe Melodioso in the 1970s and 1980s, Dick Siegel's Ministers of Melody in the 1980s, and the funk unit that backed Norma Jean Bell in the 1990s. At one point, Adamson acted as the fulcrum of an extravagantly costumed disco group, generating up to 75 percent of the mix armed only with a couple of keyboard synthesizers.

As things turned out, Adamson's burgeoning electronic ingenuity would transform his professional profile in ways that he could never have predicted. In 1986, determined to provide economic stability for his family, he cut back on gigging with bar bands to pursue a degree in computer science at U-M. That led to a series of influential positions as an information technology specialist and ultimately established him as a highly specialized security software code writer. Having paid those dues, he is now refocusing on a lifelong passion for modern jazz.

Setting up his electric piano near the back of the RUSH martini lounge, Adamson glows with contentment earned through decades of self-motivation and hard work. He's clearly in his element, collaborating with creative young musicians in music that is constantly being reinvented. Fats Waller once told an interviewer: "We rehearse on the job, at the public's expense." Hearing the quote, Andy nods vigorously, indicating that Waller hit the nail on the head. "Yup! Tonight we're working on dynamics."

Adamson's quartet plays no covers. Everything they perform is drawn from his enormous catalogue of original compositions that teem with exciting polyrhythms and richly contrasted harmonies. People who drift in from Main St. and gravitate towards the music seem pleasantly surprised by its freewheeling precision. It's not necessary to go to New York to hear jazz like this. We've got it right here at home.

Adamson's current band, featured on his latest album, *A Cry for Peace,* includes bassist Brennan Andes, known for his work with the Macpodz, the Ragbirds, George Bedard, and Vincent York. Drummer Jonathan Taylor, who has studied with pianist Geri Allen and performed with trumpeter Wadada Leo Smith, is guided by what he calls a "cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary approach to improvisation." And saxophonist Dan Bennett, regularly heard at RUSH with the creative improv group Legendary Wings, has an arrestingly powerful tone and displays an astonishing command of his instrument. Told during a set break that he seemed to pull in vibrations from the spirit of Rahsaan Roland Kirk, Bennett paused and his eyes widened. "I love Rahsaan," he confirmed, "especially when he plays ecstatically."

The Andy Adamson Quartet plays happy hour at RUSH on Friday, December 7.

—arwulf arwulf

tight range and dust-coated tone," says *Boston Phoenix* reviewer Ted Drozdowski. $30. **Dec. 26 & 27: "Crossroads Ceili."** Two evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance featuring **Mick Gavin & Family,** a veteran Detroit Irish music ensemble led by fiddler (and County Clare native) Gavin, along with some family groups TBA from the Canadian Maritimes and **Behind the Times,** a Detroit-area acoustic bluegrass-inflected country trio. $15 ($25 by reservation only includes dinner entrée at Conor O'Neill's before the show). 7:30 p.m.

The B-Side
310 E. Washington 214–9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 4: "First Friday: Jazz Zone."** Performance by several top young area jazz and soul bands.

The Blind Pig
208 S. First St. 996–8555

This local club features live music most Wed.–Sat. and occasional other nights, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Cover, dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8 Ball Saloon (below the club) and at etix.com. **Dec. 2: Beat Connection.** Seattle rock band. Opening acts are **Phantoms,** an L.A. pop duo, and **Jonah Baseball,** a local electronic-pop musician. Advance tickets: $10 ($12 at the door). **Dec. 3: Flint Eastwood.** Detroit pop-rock dance band. Opening acts are the Detroit experimental pop duo **Valley Hush,** the Detroit indie pop-rock trio **Air Is the Arche,** and the local indie rock quintet **The Landmarks.** Advance tickets: $10 ($12 at the door). **Dec. 4: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 5: Broccoli & Friends.** Local electronic/hip-hop ensemble. Opening acts are U-M music student jazz multi-instrumentalist **The THC,** hip-hop DJ **Meftah DJ,** and Detroit R&B and soul singer **DeNero Montez. Dec. 9:** TBA. **Dec. 10: The Sword.** Austin heavy metal band that calls its music "warlock rock." Opening acts are **Royal Thunder,** an Atlanta psychedelic hard-rock quartet, and **Blue Snaggletooth,** a veteran local psychedelic metal-rock band. **Dec. 11: Desmond Jones.** East Lansing funk-rock jazz fusion quintet. Opening acts are **Earphorik,** an Auburn (IN) progressive-rock jam band, and **Stormy Chromer,** a local progressive jam-rock quartet. **Dec. 12: Iggy Shevak and Dragon Wagon.** Double bill. Shevak is a Brighton quartet led by singer-songwriter Shevak that plays country-tinged folk-rock, and Dragon Wagon is a highly regarded local acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." Opening act is **shAAka,** a local experimental rock quartet. **Dec. 18: Super Happy Funtime Burlesque.** Grand Rapids–based musical comedy burlesque troupe. **Dec. 19: Black Jack & the Carnies.** Popular Ypsilanti octet that calls its energetic, foot-stomping blend of punk, old-time music, and bluegrass "crabgrass." According to *Deep Cutz* writer Jeff Milo, the band's latest full-length CD, *Sundry Mayhems,* features "blurring see-saw strings, a mean washboard, a wheezy accordion, angular, tinny banjos and mandolins and zingy, mercurial (yet melodious) lead vocals girded by poignant, rousing choruses (even some opera mixed in), at 0-60-and-back-again tempos." Opening acts are **Duende,** a Detroit psychedelic Americana band, and **Gregory Stovetop,** a Chelsea-bred, NYC-based postpunk pop-folk singer-songwriter influenced by Tom Petty and Bob Dylan. **Dec. 26: Kiyoshi and Abigail Stauffer.** Double bill. Kiyoshi is a local hip-hop MC currently based in Southern California, and Stauffer is a local singer-songwriter, recently moved to San Diego, with a rich, resonant alto voice who's known for her piercing, emotionally direct neosoul pop-folk and pop-rock songs. Opening acts are **Obie Iyoha**, a veteran local hip-hop MC, and **DJ Skoob E.**

The Blue Nile
221 E. Washington 998–4746

This downtown restaurant features live music, Fri. & Sat. 6–10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Louis Johnson.** Jazz standards and New Ethiopian jazz by this local pianist and saxophonist. On Saturdays he is joined by bassist Will Austin and other friends TBA.

Bona Sera
200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 340–6335

This Ypsilanti restaurant occasionally hosts live music. **Dec. 29–Jan. 2: "Mittenfest X."** Five-night showcase of local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. 6 different bands each night. A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. $10 per night. 8 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.).

Café Verde
214 N. Fourth Ave. 994–9174

This café in the People's Food Co-op features acoustic musicians and duos, Thurs. 6–8 p.m. No cover, no dancing. December schedule TBA.

The Cavern Club
210 S. First St. 913–8890

This downtown basement club in the Celebration Cellars banquet space features occasional live music, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. There is also sometimes music in the street-level Millennium Club and Gotham City and the 2nd-floor Circus Bar & Billiards. Also, karaoke in the Circus, Wed.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Occasional cover, dancing. **Dec. 5 & 19: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular veteran band from Dearborn. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 31: "New Year's Bash."** With the **Killer Flamingos** (see above) in the Millennium Club, DJs in the Cavern Club and Gotham City, and karaoke in the Circus. $50 cover includes a champagne toast at midnight and an all-night dinner & dessert buffet. 8 p.m.–4 p.m.

The Club Above
215 N. Main 686–4012

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. (doors at 9 p.m.). Also, DJs occasional Wed. & Thurs. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, cover. Age 21 & older admitted (except as noted). **Dec. 3: "Snow Angels Charity Concert Series."** With local electronic dance musicians **Tetra, Mynah,** and **Delta 9.** Proceeds benefit Food Gatherers and Warm the Children Fund. **Dec. 4: "Solar Powered Whirling Whiz."** DJ Pat in the Hat spins techno dance records. **Dec. 5:** No music. **Dec. 9: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** DJs with futurism, beats, and bass music. **Dec. 10: "Copacetic."** The popular soul-inflected hip-hop singer and rapper **Nickie P** hosts an evening of underground hip-hop, soul, and dreamwave. With guest MCs **Tru Klassik** and **GQ Fasho,** and resident DJs Cataclysmic and Roman G. Martinez. **Dec. 11: "8-Bit Above."** Electronic musicians **Arctic Spaceman, Dollfin, The Fleshy Timeclock,** and **DJ Matt Demmon** create so-called "chiptune" dance music using antique video games hardware. **Dec. 12: iO Megaji.** Stage name of U-M music student Kat Steih, an electro-acoustic experimental rock singer-songwriter who tonight celebrates the release of her new CD. Opening acts are the Ypsilanti rock band **March of the Ant** and the local electronic music performance art ensemble **Bobblejak,** and other bands TBA. **Dec. 18:** TBA. **Dec. 19: Zeal.** Ypsilanti funk-rock power trio led by singer-guitarist Deondre Charelle. Opening acts are **That Freak Quincy,** a Kalamazoo funk-rock jam band, and another band TBA. **Dec. 23: "Wild Out Wednesdays."** See above. **Dec. 26:** TBA. **Dec. 31: "Ultra Vivid New Year's Eve."** Details TBA. 4 p.m.–4 a.m.

Common Cup
1511 Washtenaw 327–6914

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment on occasional Fri. No cover (except as noted), no dancing. December schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's
318 S. Main 665–2968

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30–10 p.m. and Tues., Thurs., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., and a DJ on Fri. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. **Every Tues.: Shaun Garth Walker.** Local singer-guitarist with an eclectic, wide-ranging repertoire. **Dec. 3: B-rant.** The solo persona of Rootstand frontman Brant Losinski. **Dec. 5: Jerry & the Juveniles.** Classic 60s & 70s pop-rock by this local band led by guitarist Jerry Sprague and featuring his two sons on bass and drums. **Dec. 10: Bob Skon.** Folk-rock covers and originals by this local singer-songwriter known for his wry songs about love and loss. **Dec. 12: Rootstand.** Local band whose music blends bluegrass, blues, reggae, and Celtic folk idioms and instrumentation. **Dec. 17: Reeds & Steel.** See Mash. **Dec. 19: Brother Crowe.** Americana folk-rock originals by this Detroit singer-songwriter duo that also performs traditional Irish songs as Bruno's Boys. **Dec. 26: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by these local brothers.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room
114 S. Main 665–9468

Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30–10:30 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 4: Blue Water Ramblers.** The Grand Rapids duo of banjoist Jim Foerch and guitarist Bear Berends perform a wide range of traditional Great Lakes music, including lake shanties, lumberman ballads, union rallying cries, farmer's paeans, gospel music, and children's ditties. **Dec. 5: Ashcan Van Gogh.** All-originals pop-rock with 3-part vocal harmonies by the veteran suburban Detroit trio of singer-guitarists Mary McGuire, JC Whitelaw, and Billy Brandt. **Dec. 11: Harmony Bones.** Local ensemble that performs songs, rounds, and chants with rich vocal harmonies and an array of instruments. **Dec. 12: Bill Edwards.** A local country singer-songwriter whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. **Dec. 18: The Potter's Field.** Americana roots duo of singer-songwriters Rochelle Clark of Chelsea and John Natiw of Canton. They are joined by various musical guests tonight to celebrate the retirement of longtime Crazy Wisdom music coordinator Susie Keat. **Dec. 19: John Churchville.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 26: David Nefesh.** Veteran folk-rock singer-songwriter from Royal Oak, an 8-time Detroit Music Award nominee.

Crossroads
517 W. Cross, Ypsilanti 340–5597

This bar & grill near EMU features live music Tues., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. DJ with Motown records Mon. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. and "Hari Karaoke" Thurs. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. only), dancing. **Every Tues.: "Showcase Tuesday."** With up-and-coming local bands TBA. **Dec. 2: Acoustic Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians invited. **Dec. 4:** TBA. **Dec. 5:** TBA. **Dec. 9: Blues Jam.** Hosted by **Blues Dog Inquisition,** an Ypsilanti quintet that plays hard-driving classic Chicago blues. All blues players invited. **Dec. 11: Zen Banditos.** Ypsilanti self-styled "stoner metal punkadelic surf" trio, Opening acts are local sludge-metal stoner trio **Wizard Union,** the Saginaw-area self-styled "garage doom" duo **Seritas,** and the Ypsilanti post-punk noise duo **Man at Arms. Dec. 16: Acoustic Open Mike.** See above. **Dec. 23: Blues Jam.** See above. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

Dreamland Theater
26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti 657–2337

This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music. Cover (usually a donation), dancing. **Dec. 19: "Krampus Costume Ball."** A costume dance party in the name of Krampus, a mythical anti-Santa who punishes bad children, followed at midnight by a march through downtown Ypsilanti. DJs RGB and CMYK spin soul, funk, disco, rock, electro, and industrial records, and *(tentatively)* the local 7-piece New Orleans–infected Balkan brass band **Rhyta Musik** plays a short set just before the march. Prizes for best costumes. Cash bar. 8 p.m.–midnight. Remainder of December schedule TBA.

The Earle
121 W. Washington 994–0211

Restaurant with live jazz Tues.–Thurs. 7–9 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Keaton Royer.** Solo jazz pianist. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Jake Reichbart.** Solo guitarist. **Every Fri. & Sat.: Rick Burgess Trio.** Jazz ensemble, named after the late jazz pianist and Earle cofounder Burgess, featuring pianist Gil Scott Chapman, bassist Russell Tessier, and drummer Robert Warren.

The Elks Lodge
220 Sunset 761–7172

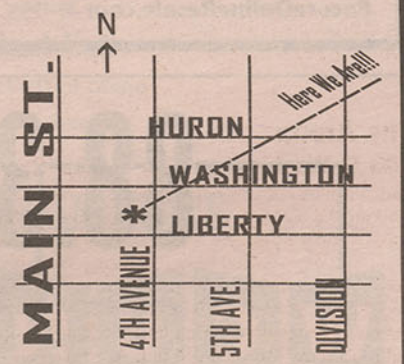
This basement venue in the James L. Crawford Elks Lodge rec room features soul food and live jazz, blues, & rock Fri. & Sat. 6–10 p.m. Also, DJs, Fri. & Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Dancing, usually no cover except for DJ shows. Members and guests welcome. **Every Thurs.: "Hip-Hop Open Mike."** All hip-hop artists invited.

Guy Hollerin's
3600 Plymouth Rd. 769–9800

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. (except holiday weekends), 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: Chris Canas Band.** See Mash. **Dec. 12: Steve Nardella Rock 'n' Roll Trio.** Ann Arbor's most passionate and compelling roots-rocker performs fiercely cathartic, blues-drenched reworkings of rock 'n' roll and rockabilly classics and obscure gems, along with some authentic Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker

Ann Arbor's Original and Only All Comedy Nightclub Since 1984

NOW IN OUR NEW LOCATION
212 SOUTH 4TH AVENUE



DON'T MISS IN DECEMBER

Rodney Laney
December 10 11 12

P.Diddy's "Bad Boys of Comedy"
Fox News Channel's "Red Eye"
"The Late Late Show w/Ferguson"
Comedy Central's "Premium Blend"
"Gotham Comedy Live"
BBC's "The World Stand's Up"
truTV's "The Smoking Gun Presents..."
"Gotham Comedy Live"
"Comedy.TV"
"LOL Lounge"

Joe List
New Year's Eve
December 31 - 8pm & 10:30pm
Special Engagement

Semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing"
"Late Show w/Letterman"
Comedy Central's "Live at Gotham"
FoxNews' "Red Eye"
DirectTV's "The Artie Lange Show"
AXSTV's "Gotham Comedy Live"
"Comedy Central Presents"
Sirius/XM Radio
and more...!!!

For the rest of this month's comics check the listings in this magazine

SHOWTIMES
Wed. & Thurs. - 8pm
Fri. & Sat. - 8 & 10:30pm
212 South 4th Avenue
Downtown Ann Arbor
www.aacomedy.com
734-996-9080

Put some jingle in your pocket!
encore
ONLINE RESALE
Let Encore Sell It For You:
Electronics • Musical Instruments
Designer Items • Antiques & Collectibles
Sterling Silver • Sporting Goods
Camera & Audio/Visual Equipment
1958 South Industrial
(in the Colonial Lanes Plaza)
734.761.6187
EncoreOnlineResale.com
ebay REGISTERED drop off location

88.3
WCBN
you are here.
wcbn.org

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS IN BUSINESS
Make sure your car is ready for holiday travel!
Ron's Garage
Import & Domestic
Why Choose Ron's Garage?
3 Year, 36,000 Mile Warranty
Free Shuttle Service
100% Satisfaction Guarantee
Member of Automotive Training Institute
After Hours Car Drop Off
Family Owned & Operated
Serving Area since 1982
1130 Rosewood St
Ann Arbor • M–F, 8a–5p
734-662-8379
See Website for Coupons
www.RonsGarageA2.com

blues. **Dec. 19: Root Doctor.** Lansing quintet led by vocalist Freddie Cunningham that plays a rich, varied blues and R&B repertoire that ranges from ZZ Hill to Billie Holiday to B.B. King to Bobby "Blue" Bland. **Dec. 26:** No music. **Dec. 31: The Bluescasters.** Veteran local quartet that plays intense, low-down blues and blues-rock. $29 (includes champagne toast and light hors d'oeuvres buffet at midnight) in advance and (if available) at the door. 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

The Habitat Lounge

3050 Jackson Rd. 665–3636

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs. 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m. and Fri. & Sat. 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m., along with jazz Sun. 7–11 p.m. Also, a DJ Mon., 7 p.m.–midnight, and solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Sun.: The Weber's Jazz Collective.** Jazz originals and standards by different piano-based trios and quartets each week. **Every Thurs.** (except Dec. 24 & 31)**: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this popular local singer-guitarist who delivered a scorching set at the Ann Arbor Folk Festival in January. **Dec. 1 & 2: Mark Chichkan Duo.** Rock duo led by veteran Windsor singer-guitarist Chichkan. **Dec. 4 & 5: The Front Men.** Detroit vintage-rock band. **Dec. 8 & 9: Green-Eyed Soul.** Windsor pop trio fronted by vocalists Melissa Danese and Fallon Deluca. **Dec. 11 & 12: Big Will & 360 Degrees.** Versatile pop dance septet from Troy, fronted by singer-keyboardists William Elijah and Diana McNary, whose repertoire ranges from R&B, rock, and hip-hop to Latin, jazz standards, and New Country. **Dec. 15 & 16: Slice.** Veteran East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Dec. 18 & 19: Free Lance.** Local dance rock cover band whose repertoire ranges from Earth, Wind & Fire and Stevie Wonder to AC/DC and Guns & Roses to Maroon 5 and Bruno Mars. **Dec. 22 & 23: Scottie Alexander Duo.** Pop-rock covers by everyone from Elton John and Lionel Richie to Matchbox Twenty and Kings of Leon by this duo led by Brighton singer-pianist Alexander. **Dec. 26:** TBA. **Dec. 29 & 30: Rick Canzano.** Northville pop-rock multi-instrumentalist. **Dec. 31: The Front Men.** See above. Also, in the Weber's Inn ballroom, **Mainstreet Soul,** a Detroit band that plays classic Motown.

LIVE

102 S. First St. 623–1443

This lounge features live music Fri. happy hour (late Aug.–May), 6:30–9 p.m., and occasional evenings. Also, DJs, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat. 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover (except Fri. & Sat. after 11 p.m.), dancing. **Dec. 4: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Yardbirds, the Byrds, and Dylan to priceless obscurities like Love's "Alone Again Or" and The Foundations' 1968 hit "Build Me Up Buttercup." 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 11: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of house rocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 18: The Rhythm Machines.** A mix of classic rock, soul, funk, R&B, and jazz fusion by this veteran Detroit-area quartet whose repertoire includes interpretive covers of everyone from Jimi Hendrix and Stanley Clarke to James Brown and Curtis Mayfield. With guitarists Julius O'Steen and Terry Gordinier, bassist Ben Piner, and drummer John Marion. 6:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 31: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist George Bedard, bassist Pat Prouty, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. 6:30–9 p.m.

Mash

211 E. Washington 222–4095

This lounge in the basement of the Blue Tractor tavern features live music Wed. 9 p.m.–midnight and Thurs.–Sat. & occasional other nights, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Weekend happy hour music, 6–9 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 2: Barelyon.** Soulful pop-rock by this Detroit duo. **Dec. 3: The Shelter Dogs.** Local self-styled "lounge-a-billy" trio that plays vintage swing, rockabilly, and blues. With upright bassist Todd Perkins, guitarist Pete Bullard, and drummer Tom Twiss. **Dec. 4: Pat McCloskey.** Contemporary rock covers by this local singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 4: The Terraplanes.** See Live. **Dec. 5: Mike Vial.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 5: Nobody's Business.** Redford blues and blues-rock band. **Dec. 9: Robert Johnson.** Solo acoustic folk and blues by this Northville singer-guitarist. **Dec. 10: Rumblefish.** Local reggae-funk trio. **Dec. 11: Reeds & Steel.** Acoustic jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by the duo of singer and harmonica player Michael May and guitarist Jimmy Alter. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 11: Harper & the Midwest Kind.** Blues-rock band led by Peter Harper, a blues singer-songwriter from Australia, now transplanted to Grass Lake, who plays blues harp and didgeridoo. The band has an acclaimed CD on the Blind Pig label, *Down to the Rhythm.* **Dec. 12: Logan White.** Local pop-folk singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 12: Sonic Freeway.** Versatile Detroit-area 6-piece dance band whose repertoire includes Motown and classic and country-rock. **Dec. 16: Dan Orcutt.** Veteran local folk-rock singer-songwriter best known through his blues-rock alter ego Nick Strange. **Dec. 17: The Alligators.** Detroit R&B and blues band. **Dec. 18: Sophie Mendel.** Pop-rock and pop-folk covers by this local singer-guitarist. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 18: Brett Mitchell & the Giant Ghost.** Midland pop-rock band led by Mitchell, a singer-songwriter and drummer whom *Grand Rapids Press* music critic John Sinkevics calls "the new millennium's version of Marshall Crenshaw." **Dec. 19:** TBA. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 19: Ari Teitel Band.** Detroit Americana rock ensemble led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Teitel, whose music draws on soul, funk, blues, and gospel influences. **Dec. 23: Reeds & Steel.** See above. **Dec. 26:** TBA. 6–9 p.m. **Dec. 26: RJ Blues Band.** Northville band led by singer-guitarist Robert Johnson that plays blues-rock originals and traditional blues. **Dec. 30: Mike Vial.** See above. **Dec. 31: Chris Canas Band.** Detroit blues band fronted by young blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist Canas.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty 994–5436

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, Friday happy hour bands (no cover) in the Red Room, 5:30–8:30 p.m., and occasional other live shows. Cover, dancing. December schedule TBA.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty 662–9291

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun., Tues., & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 1: Jesse Kramer Trio.** Jazz trio led by drummer Kramer. With keyboardist Glenn Tucker and bassist Jeff Oedraz. **Dec. 6: Thunderwüde.** Bluegrass and related roots music by the Chelsea trio of guitarists Jason Dennie and George Merkel and multi-instrumentalist Wes Fritzemeier**. Dec. 8: Dale Grisa Trio.** Jazz trio led by pianist Grisa. **Dec. 13: Jay Stielstra.** Folk-country originals by this veteran local singer-songwriter, a mainstay of the local folk scene since the early 70s who is most widely known as the author of *Tittabawassee Jane* and other Michigan-based folk musicals. Stielstra's most recent CD is *Don't Let Me Down Easy.* **Dec. 15: Ann Arbor Music Center Quartet.** Jazz standards by this ensemble of AAMC jazz faculty—saxophonist Paul VornHagen, guitarist Carl Michel, drummer Mark Sutton, and bassist Dave Sharp—along with some of their students sitting in. **Dec. 20: John Latini.** Acoustic rock–based originals by this popular veteran local rock 'n' roll singer-songwriter. His latest CD is *Lovers, Liars & Losers.* **Dec. 22: Tim Haldeman Trio.** Blues- and bebop-based jazz in a variety of styles and forms by this local ensemble led by saxophonist Haldeman. **Dec. 27: Midwest Territory Band.** Self-styled "jug-band jazz" by this local acoustic trio led by blues-oriented vocalist and guitar virtuoso Rollie Tussing. With bassist Serge Van der Voo and percussionist Jim Carey. **Dec. 29:** TBA.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard 662–8283

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30–9:30 p.m. Cover by donation, no dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Guitarist Network."** All guitarists invited for a weekly jam session and group lesson that concludes with a group performance. 7:30–9 p.m. **Dec. 1: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak.

The Ravens Club

207 S. Main 214–0400

This downtown bar & grill features live music, Sun. 8–11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Heather Black Project.** Vintage jazz and blues by an ensemble led by Heather Schwartz, a talented local singer whose vocal style also reflects gospel, R&B, soul, and hip-hop influences.

Rush Street

314 S. Main 913–0330

This martini lounge features nightly DJs, along with live music, first Fri. of the month 5–8 p.m., Fri. 8–10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Dancing, no cover. **Every Fri.** (except Dec. 11 & 25): **Legendary Wings.** Local jazz quintet that focuses on dynamic, challenging, and less commonly heard music from the modern jazz repertoire interspersed with free improvisation. The usual lineup features saxophonists Dan Bennett and Tim Haldeman, Fender Rhodes electric pianist Matt Endahl, bassist Jordan Schug, and drummer Nick Collins. **Dec. 4: WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series.** With the **Ron Brooks Trio,** a bebop-rooted mainstream jazz ensemble led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Tad Weed and drummer George Davidson, and guest vocalist Sunny Wilkinson, a veteran nationally known straight-ahead jazz singer. 5–7 p.m. **Dec. 11: Andy Adamson Quartet.** *See review, p. 74.* Jazz originals by keyboardist Adamson in styles ranging from traditional to modern electric jazz, along with some free improvisation. With saxophonist Dan Bennett, acoustic and electric bassist Brennan Andes, and drummer John Taylor.

Silvio's Organic Pizza

715 North University 214–6666

This campus-area restaurant features live music Sun. 6–8 p.m., Fri. 7–9 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, dancing to DJs with swing music (Wed. 10 p.m.–midnight) and tango music (Fri. 10 p.m.–midnight). No cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Will Mefford.** Improvisations on jazz standards by this local pianist. **Dec. 4:** TBA. **Dec. 11:** TBA. **Dec. 18: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. The band has a recent CD, *Triangle.*

Tap Room

201 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti 482–5320

This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music Thurs. 8 p.m.–midnight, and occasional Fri. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales,** a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 5: "Boylesque."** Drag show. 10 p.m.–2 a.m.

Wolverine State Brewing Co.

2019 W. Stadium 369–2990

This west-side brewpub features occasional live music, 9–11:30 p.m. No cover, dancing. **Dec. 5: Dragon Wagon.** Highly regarded local acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a touch of Irish whiskey." The Wolverine is celebrating its 5th anniversary tonight, beginning at 6 p.m. with brewery tours, giveaways, and special beers on tap.

The Yellow Barn

416 W. Huron Ouryellowbarn.com

This performance venue just west of downtown features live music most Fri. & Sat. & occasional other nights, 7:30–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 31: She-Bop & the Riff-Raff.** Local septet with a repertoire of vintage and contemporary pop, rock, and blues covers that's fronted by the girl-group–style vocals of Robin Peterson, Laurie Lounsbury, and Jennifer Carr Rumberger. Beer & wine cash bar. 9:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m.

Zal Gaz Grotto

2070 W. Stadium 663–1202

This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Sat. 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m., Sun. 5–8 p.m., Mon. 7–10 p.m., Tues. 5:30–8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Sun.: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. Also, each week features a middle set by a guest student ensemble. **Every Tues.: Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Dec. 31: Shoot the Messenger.** Versatile honky-tonk band led by singer-bassist Chris Goerke and featuring vocalist Jackie Edelman. The band's huge repertoire includes blues, country, rockabilly, rock 'n' roll, and R&B. With singer-guitarist Steve Newhouse and singer-drummer Tom Twiss. 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

December Events

FILMS

88 **Film Screenings**
John Hinchey & Katie Whitney

79 ***Pecker***
James M. Manheim

MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

74 **Nightspots**
John Hinchey

74 **Andy Adamson**
arwulf arwulf

Theatre Nova presents *An Almost British Christmas* every Thurs.–Sun. through December 20.

EVENTS REVIEWS

81 **Takacs Quartet**
Filling the room
arwulf arwulf

83 **Peter Mulvey**
Monster musician
Sandor Slomovits

91 **Michael Malis**
New Detroit piano
Piotr Michalowski

GALLERIES

98 **Exhibit Openings**
Katie Whitney

98 **The Art of Tyree Guyton**
Sally Wright Day

We want to know about your event!
Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769–3175
- **By mail:** Katie Whitney, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
- **By fax:** 769–3375
- **After-hours drop box:** left side of the Observer's front door facing Winewood

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to AnnArborObserver.com).

★ *Denotes a free event.*

annarborobserver.com:
An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at **AnnArborObserver.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on annarborobserver.com.

arbormail:
Get your alerts by email—we'll send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at AnnArborObserver.com/arbormail_help.html.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.AnnArborObserver.com

1 TUESDAY

"Rockin' for the Hungry": Food Gatherers. *Dec. 1–5.* Live broadcasts by radio station 107one DJs. Cash and nonperishable food donations requested. The 1st 200 donors today receive a $5 Kroger gift card. *6–10 a.m. (Dec. 1), 6 a.m.–7 p.m. (Dec. 2–4), & 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 5), Kroger, 3615 Washtenaw (Dec. 1 only) & 400 S. Maple (Dec. 2–5). Free admission. 761–2796.*

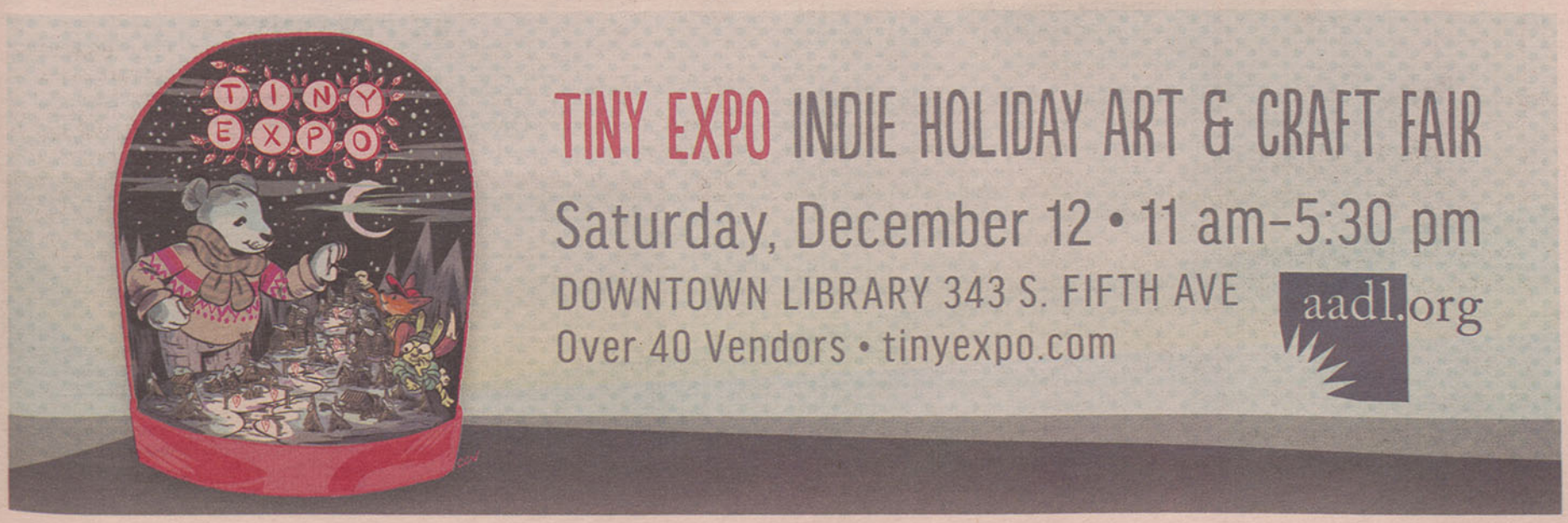
"The Little Scientist Club": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Every Tues. & Sat., except Dec. 26 & 29.* Crafts, science-themed stories, and hands-on activities for young kids, accompanied by a parent. Geared toward kids ages 3–6; older siblings welcome. *9:30–10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 10:30–11:30 a.m. (Sat.), AAHOM Green Room (lower level), 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

Coffee Break: Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church. *Every Tues. (when Ann Arbor Public Schools are in session).* All women invited to study the Bible with other American and international women in small, informal groups. Also, Bible stories and fun activities for preschoolers, and child care provided for babies. *9:45–11:15 a.m. & 1:15–2:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Christian Reformed Church, 1717 Broadway. $15 for the year. 665–0105.*

★Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Tues. & Wed.* Stories and songs for kids ages 2–5 (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues., 11–11:30 a.m.; Wed., 6–6:30 p.m.; & Thurs. 10–10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10–10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7–7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11–11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Tues.* All ages invited to play this popular word game. Lunch available for $5.50 (age 60 & over, $3) at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.; reservations required. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Adults Tuesday: Jewish Community Center. *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 11 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar. Also, at 1 p.m., **mah-jongg, quilting,** and other games & activities, and at 1:30 p.m., **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group that also includes readings of Yiddish stories. Home-


TINY EXPO
TINY EXPO INDIE HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, December 12 • 11 am–5:30 pm
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY 343 S. FIFTH AVE
Over 40 Vendors • tinyexpo.com
aadl.org

SPONSORED BY
McMullen Properties

SUPPORTED BY
Phil and Kathy Power

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES SUPPORTED BY
Renegade Ventures Fund, established by Maxine and Stuart Frankel, and by Emily Bandera

MEDIA PARTNERS
Michigan Radio 91.7 FM and Ann Arbor's 107one

A Christmas Carol National Theatre of Scotland

Directed by Graham McLaren
Puppets by Gavin Glover
Thursday, December 17 – Sunday, January 3
Power Center Stage

The National Theatre of Scotland's version of Charles Dickens's classic fable is an exquisite take on one of our most famous winter tales.

Only 125 audience members per show join Ebenezer Scrooge in his Victorian counting house and sit in creepy close-up as this most famous of misers is visited by three ghosts during his night of soul-searching. Featuring a cast of haunting puppets, live music, and an ingenious set that will spirit you back to Scrooge's Victorian London, this spooky retelling of the classic, festive fable is recommended for ages 8+.

General admission, onstage seating only.

Takács Quartet

Wednesday, December 2 // 7:30 pm
Rackham Auditorium

Recognized as one of the world's great chamber ensembles, the Takács Quartet plays with a unique blend of drama, warmth, and humor, combining four distinct musical personalities to bring fresh insights to the string quartet repertoire.

PROGRAM

Haydn	Quartet No. 57 in C Major, Op. 74, No. 1
Andres	Strong Language
Dvořák	Quartet No. 14 in A-flat Major, Op. 105

ENDOWED SUPPORT FROM
Ilene H. Forsyth Chamber Arts Endowment Fund

MEDIA PARTNER
WGTE 91.3 FM

Handel's *Messiah*

UMS Choral Union
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra
Scott Hanoian, music director and conductor
Saturday, December 5 // 8 pm
Sunday, December 6 // 2 pm
Hill Auditorium

The holiday season in Ann Arbor is never officially underway until Handel's *Messiah* is performed at Hill Auditorium. In a true community tradition, *Messiah* features the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and the voices of the Grammy Award–winning UMS Choral Union. These performances also mark the debut of the UMS Choral Union's new music director, Scott Hanoian.

SPONSORED BY
Sesi Lincoln

SUPPORTED BY
Richard and Norma Sarns

MEDIA PARTNERS
Michigan Radio 91.7 FM and Ann Arbor's 107one

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LIVE IN HD:

Shakespeare's *Henry V*

Directed by Gregory Doran
Sunday, December 13 // 7 pm
Michigan Theater

Henry IV is dead and Hal is King. With England in a state of unrest, he must leave his rebellious youth behind, and gain the respect of his nobility and people. Laying claim to parts of France, Henry gathers his troops and prepares for a war that he hopes will unite his country. RSC Artistic Director Gregory Doran continues his exploration of Shakespeare's History Plays.

ums
BE PRESENT

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
UMS.ORG / 734.764.2538

UMS Has You Covered for Holiday Gift-Giving

UMS tickets and gift certificates are perfect for the choosy person on your list. Available in any amount, UMS gift certificates are valid for five years from the date of purchase and redeemable for more than 70 events throughout the year. Visit ums.org/giftcards or call the Ticket Office at 734-764-2538.

Pecker

Outsider perspective

I recently revisited some of the films in the Michigan Theater's "Yours Truly, John Waters" series after not having seen his work for years. I always thought Waters' films were lively and well-made realizations of outsider perspectives, but given that shock usually doesn't age well—it's so easy for the next generation to outdo—I wondered how they'd hold up. Turns out they're still as much fun as ever, and a new generation of fans is well acquainted with them. One of the sharpest of the group is 1998's *Pecker,* whose theme of art world craziness hasn't lost a bit of its edge.

The titular teenage boy, named for his habit of pecking at his food, works at a diner in Baltimore's working-class Hampden neighborhood (now, perhaps due in part to the film, it's gentrifying fast). Wherever he goes, Pecker (Edward Furlong) carries an old film camera, and he has a sure eye for interesting psychological spaces and often for how to goad people into them. His grainy shots get deeply into life as it is lived on the neighborhood's rough edges—highlighting its thrift shops, his ventriloquist grandmother who makes a wooden Virgin Mary talk, his shoplifting friend, and the local gay bar (which, through the movie, did much to introduce tea-bagging to the wider world). And especially when Pecker photographs his Laundromat-manager girlfriend (a young Christina Ricci), those shots are often very beautiful. Pecker papers the neighborhood with Xeroxed flyers announcing his photo exhibition at the diner; a New York gallerist happens to see one, and the satirical plot is set in motion.

Waters' films tend to be a bit uneven, with energy to spare but some jokes that misfire, and so it is here. The first half hour, though, as he follows Pecker around his neighborhood and you are in effect looking through two cameras at once, is an astonishing piece of virtuoso filmmaking. Pecker indeed has something that marks great art: he stands inside a culture and yet outside it, and he explores that boundary line with enormous energy.

The film as it plays out, with Pecker gaining instant celebrity but then running into problems, is a bit more predictable, but it has many pleasures. The New York art mob is gently rather than acidly drawn, and it's made up of an ensemble of fine performers, including none other than Patty Hearst. There's an unforgettable takedown of the overmedication of children, and surely there have been few films with a sense of place like that of Waters' Baltimore.

At the end a reporter asks Pecker about his future plans. There's a long pause, and he answers, "I think I'd like to direct a film." It's a nice way of indicating that this, of all Waters' films, is perhaps the closest to his own heart. *Pecker* will be shown at the Michigan Theater at 7 p.m. December 2 (see Films, p. 89), and the final film in the series will be *Cecil B. Demented* on December 9.

—James M. Manheim

made buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971–0990.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** *Every Tues.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. *Dec. 1:* SUNY-Albany geography and planning professor Youqin Huang discusses **"Migrants' Family Arrangement and Their Children's Wellbeing in China."** *Dec. 8:* U-M Center for Chinese studies postdoc Laurence Coderre discusses **"Invasion of the Body Snatchers: Remediation and the Model in the Mirror,"** a talk about the political role of mirrors adorned with images of revolutionary heroes during the Cultural Revolution. *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Story Time: Bookbound.** *Every Tues. & Sat.* Linda Zimmer reads seasonal stories for kids age 6 & under. *6 p.m. (Tues.) & 11 a.m. (Sat.), Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369–4345.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Sun.–Fri., except Dec. 25 & 31.* All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using modern constructed (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander/Commander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.), standard constructed (Thurs.), and booster draft (Fri. & Sun.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri. & Sun.). *6 p.m. (Mon.–Fri.) & Noon (Sun.), Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. $5 (Tues., free; Sun. & Fri., $15 includes cards). 786–3746.*

★**"Detroit Is Dynamite: Politics of Fordist Urbanism": U-M Taubman College of Architecture & Urban Planning.** Talk by U-M architecture and urban planning lecturer Michael McCulloch. *6 p.m., Art + Architecture Bldg., 2000 Bonisteel. Free. 764–1300.*

★**"Ann Arbor East Group Run": Running Fit.** *Every Tues.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:15 p.m., Running Fit, 3010 Washtenaw. Free. 548–6299.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA at meetup.com/ann-arbor-StitchNBitch/. Free. 945–3035.*

★**"Crisistunity: Re-imagining Historic Sites at the National Trust": U-M Museum Studies Program.** Lecture by National Trust for Historic Preservation vice president Katherine Malone-France. *6:30 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 936–6678.*

★**ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon., Tues., Wed., & Fri. through Dec. 21.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *7–8:30 p.m. (Mon. & Tues.), AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy.; 6–7:30 p.m. (Wed.) & 1–2:30 p.m. (Fri.), AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; 1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.), AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues., except Dec. 29.* Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). First-timers are asked to arrive at 7 p.m. The Dec. 22 dance is also a **"Winter Solstice Party"** with carol singing. Bring a festive treat to share, if you can. *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). $8 (students, $4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665–7704.*

★**Literati Book Club: Literati Bookstore.** All invited to discuss ***Lafayette in the Somewhat United States,*** Sarah Vowell's book that chronicle's General Lafayette's years in Washington's army while reflecting on the disparity between the American Revolution ideals and the realities of war. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★**"Wolverine: A Photographic History of Michigan Football": Ann Arbor District Library.** Veteran Detroit-area sports journalist Mike Rosenbaum presents a slide-illustrated talk on his new book. Q&A. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Navigating Winter with Raw Foods": People's Food Co-op.** Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op or at peoplesfood.coop/news_and_events/. 994–4589.*

★**Upper School Jazz Showcase: Greenhills School.** Jazz students perform works TBA. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4093.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tues.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7–9 p.m., Gladwin Center barn, 4105 W. Liberty. Free to visitors ($80 per semester dues for those who join). 355–7738.*

★**Voices in Harmony Sweet Adelines.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 70-member *a cappella* barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 612–7580.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance: Greg Humbel, 445–1925.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent digital images and prints, including those on the club's current topic, **"People."** *7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School auditorium, 1701 Newport. Free. 327–4781.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***Bonsai,*** Chilean poet Alejandro Zambra's novella about a college love affair. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**"The Beauty of Anthroposophy, or: What's Scientific about Spiritual Science?": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America.** Talk by U-M German literature, philosophy, and intellectual history professor Fred Amrine, a well-known Goethe and Steiner scholar. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 276–5294.*

★**EMU Jazz & Percussion Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** John Dorsey and Donald Babcock direct these 2 music student ensembles in a program TBA. *7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

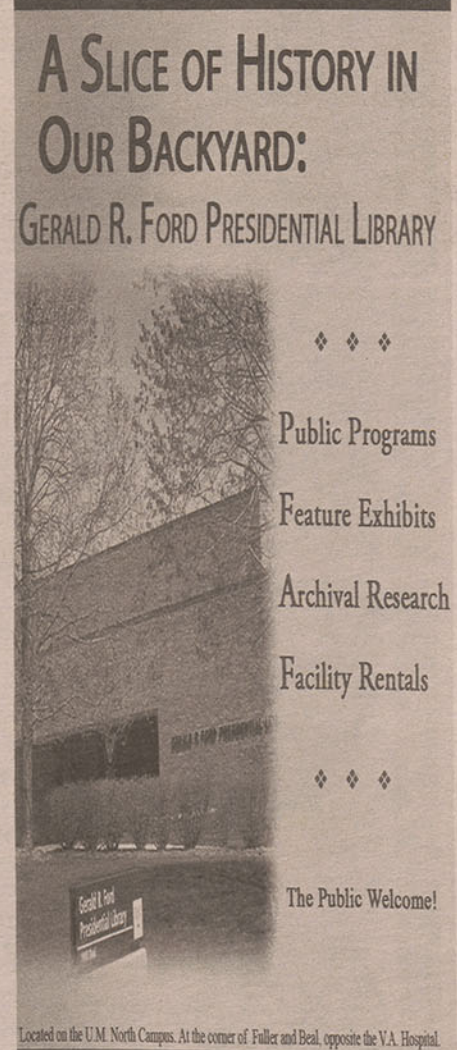
★**German Speakers Round Table.** *Every Tues.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

★**Early Music Choir & Chamber Music Concert: U-M School of Music.** Students perform works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Trombone Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Students of David Jackson perform solos by Bozza, Casterede, Ewazen, Raum, and Sulek. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Mad About Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House.** *Dec. 1 & 10.* Christopher Harding directs U-M piano students in works TBA. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free, but donations accepted. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. *Nov. 24*


A SLICE OF HISTORY IN OUR BACKYARD:
GERALD R. FORD PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY
Public Programs
Feature Exhibits
Archival Research
Facility Rentals
The Public Welcome!
Located on the U.M. North Campus. At the corner of Fuller and Beal, opposite the V.A. Hospital.
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library
1000 Beal Ave. • Ann Arbor • www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov
(734) 205-0555 • Monday - Friday 8:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

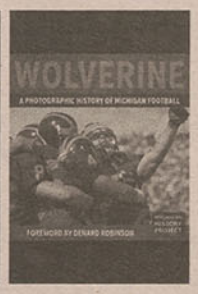
aadl.org

DECEMBER Highlights

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT LIBRARY

FOR MORE INFORMATION 734.327.4555 or aadl.org

EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.



UM FOOTBALL • 12/1

Tues. Dec 1
7–8:30pm

WOLVERINE: A PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF MICHIGAN FOOTBALL
Join us as author Mike Rosenbaum views highlights of U-M football history from his compelling new book. The event includes a book signing and books will be for sale.

Wed. Dec 2
7–8:30pm

DRUGS, ADDICTION, AND THE BRAIN • In this lecture, Dr. Terry E. Robinson will focus on the ways drugs of abuse can change the brain, how this influences behavioral and psychological function, and how such changes may contribute to the transition from mere drug use to addiction.

MOTHER GOOSE • 12/5

Wed. Dec 2
7–8:30pm

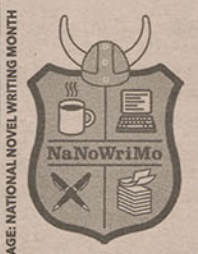
HEALTH INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR MICHIGANDERS: Why You Should Get it and How! • Come learn more about your health insurance options at this event, led by representatives of the Washtenaw Health Initiative (WHI). • DOWNTOWN FOURTH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Thurs. Dec 3
7–8:30pm

THREE ACROSS: An Evening with Your Friendly Neighborhood Crossword Constructors • Join us for a conversation with a panel of Michigan-based crossword puzzle creators whose work has been published in publications including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Sat. Dec 5
1–2:00pm

ANIMALS IN RHYME: Stories from the Friends of Mother Goose • Join Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members for a fun-filled hour of animal stories and rhymes for the Pre-K and early elementary crowd.



NANOWRIMO • 12/6

IMAGE: NATIONAL NOVEL WRITING MONTH

Sun. Dec 6
12:30–2:30pm
3:30–5:30pm

MOSAIC JEWELRY WORKSHOP • Shannon Kuchera of Mosaic Geek teaches participants how to create a glass mosaic pendant necklace. All supplies are provided. *Please choose one of the two classes to attend.* • GRADE 6-ADULT • DOWNTOWN FOURTH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Sun. Dec 6
2–4:00pm

NANOWRIMO: "I Wrote a Novel... Now What?" • Local author Karen Simpson will offer tips and tricks on revising your written work and how to get published. This program is associated with NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month). • GRADE 9-ADULT • TRAVERWOOD

ALBERT KAHN • 12/10

Mon. Dec 7
7–8:30pm

BAKING W/SWEETENERS 101 with the People's Food Co-Op • Keegan C. Rodgers, Head Baker at the People's Food Co-Op will discuss the history, processing, uses & chemical reactions of sweeteners used in baking. • DOWNTOWN FOURTH FLOOR MEETING ROOM

Thurs. Dec 10
7–9:00pm

BUZZED BEE: A Grown-Up Spelling Bee at LIVE 102 S First St • Are you a spelling geek who likes the taste of victory? Buzzed Bee is your chance to conquer some words, prove your 5th grade teacher wrong, and do it like an adult–in a bar! Doors open at 6:30.

ALWAYS LOST • 12/11

Thurs. Dec 10
7–8:30pm

ALBERT KAHN: Designing Detroit & the University of Michigan • In this program, Detroit News art critic and author Michael H. Hodges surveys Kahn's impact on city and school and asks why this most-prolific of designers–once world-famous–has vanished from the architectural canon.

Fri. Dec 11
6:30–8:30pm

***ALWAYS LOST*: Exhibit Opening Program & Reception** • Join us for the special opening program for this extraordinary and moving exhibit and poignant memorial that honors those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan and those who made it home.• DOWNTOWN 4TH FL. MTG RM & 3RD FL. GALLERY

TINY EXPO • 12/12

Sat. Dec 12
11am–5:30pm

TINY EXPO: Indie Holiday Art & Craft Fair • Join us to shop local artists and crafters selling their wares in a festive library space! It's a great way to support your community and find unique gifts. • DOWNTOWN LOBBY

Sat. Dec 12
1–2:30pm

TRADER JOE'S HOLIDAY TASTING • Trader Joe's staff will introduce you to appetizers as well as elegant hors d'oeuvres. All items can be easily prepared ahead of your party or small gathering. • DTN SECRET LAB

Tues. Dec 15
Noon–2:30pm

LIVE STREAMING: **LAUNCH CLUB–Expedition 46-47 TMA-19M Launch to the International Space Station** • Join fellow space exploration enthusiasts to watch the next manned mission to the ISS. • GRADE 6-ADULT

CLASSICAL BELLS • 12/19

Fri. Dec 18
6:30–8:30pm

WRAP IT UP! DIY Gift-Giving • Got gifts to wrap? Give them a personal touch by learning how to make your own wrapping paper! • GRADE 6-ADULT

Sat. Dec 19
1–2:00pm

CLASSICAL BELLS HOLIDAY CONCERT • Classical Bells returns to the Library for their annual concert. This event is very popular–so arrive early! • ALL AGES

Sun. Dec 20
2–3:30pm

STAR WARS LIGHT SABER ACADEMY • Terra Prime Light Armory will be your guiding force as they give instruction in light saber use in a friendly and fun interactive setting. • GRADES K-6 • PITTSFIELD

& 25 and Dec. 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, & 16–19. Tim Rhoze directs the Michigan premiere of his drama in which the legendary entertainer, shortly before his death in 1989, reflects on the milestones of his life. Stars Sean Blake. *8 p.m. (Tues.–Sat. except Dec. 12), 2 p.m. (Dec. 6), & 3 p.m. (Dec. 12), Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $27 (Tues.–Thurs.) & $34 (Fri.–Sun.). Tickets available in advance by phone and at pntheatre.org, and at the door. $3 discounts for seniors age 60 & older, half price (except Sat. eve) for students with ID. 663–0681.*

Opera on Tap. Local opera singers perform arias and art songs that address this month's theme, **"Music, Mead, and Merrymaking."** *8:30–10 p.m. (seating begins at 6:30 p.m.), Sidetrack Bar & Grill, 56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti. Free, but donations accepted (buy your own food). Reservations required (call between 10 a.m. & 8 p.m.). 483–5230.*

2 WEDNESDAY

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell chime's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. 369–3107.*

★**"Mt. Wudang: The Sacred Daoist Mountain That Emperor Yongle Built": U-M Confucius Institute.** Talk by Boston College Asian art history professor Aurelia Campbell. *Noon–1 p.m., Michigan League Koessler Room. Free. 764–8888.*

★**"The Women's Movement and Feminism in Russia: More than Two Centuries of History": U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies.** Talk by Russian Academy of Sciences (Moscow) women & gender studies professor Natalia L. Pushkareva. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon., Wed., & Thurs.* All ages invited to play non-sanctioned (Mon.) & ACBL-sanctioned (Wed. & Thurs.) duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. Refreshments. *Noon–3:45 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.) & 12:30–4 p.m. (Mon.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $3 (members, $2) on Mon., $7 (members, $6) on Wed. & Thurs. 794–6250.*

★**Chess: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Wed. except Dec. 30.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun. (except Nov. 26) through Dec. 19.* Guy Sanville directs the world premiere of Jeff Daniels' comedy about 2 middle-aged NYC actors who have been competing for the same roles for 30 years and will go to great lengths to get a part. Cast: Tom Whalen, Erika Matchie Thiede, and David Daoust. *3 p.m. (Wed., Sat., & Nov. 27), 8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $28 (Wed.), $25 (Thurs.), $38 (Fri. eve. & weekend matinees), $43 (Sat. eve.) in advance at purplerosetheatre.org and by phone, and (if available) at the door. 433–7673.*

★**"Local Patriotisms and Diasporic Translocality: Compatriotic Societies in Modern Armenian Diaspora": U-M Armenian Studies Program.** Talk by U-M Armenian studies postdoc Vahe Sahakyan. *4–5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–0622.*

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabble Club.** *Every Wed.* Word freaks of all abilities invited to drop in to play this popular word game, using the brand-new 5th edition Scrabble dictionary. Bring your own set, if you like. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing Co., 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084, 277–7748.*

★**"Vox Popular: The Surprising Life of Language in the Media": U-M Authors Forum.** U-M English and linguistics professor **Robin Queen** and U-M English professor Anne Curzan discuss Queen's new book. Q&A. *5:30–7 p.m., 100 U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 764–3166.*

Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Wed.* All invited to play bingo. Cash prizes. *6–10 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 admission. $9 per game. 769–5911.*

★**"Block Printing": Ann Arbor District Library.** Adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn how to make linocut prints using linoleum blocks. Supplies provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Ann Arbor West Group Run": Running Fit.** *Every Wed.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:30 p.m., Running Fit, 5700 Jackson. Free. 929–9022.*

classical music

ELLEN APPEL

Takacs Quartet

Filling the room

Our bustling multicultural community abounds with opportunities to learn words and phrases from other languages. Hungarian words in particular can be pleasantly challenging for Westerners to enunciate properly. "Takacs" means "weaver" and is pronounced "TUH-kotch." It is also the name of one of the most exciting, accomplished, and widely respected string quartets in the world. By regularly gracing our town with their presence, the Takacs Quartet has cultivated a faithful following in Ann Arbor. If at this point you are able to score last-minute tickets for their December 2 performance at Rackham, even a seat near the wall will serve you well, because this ensemble is capable of filling the room with the warmth and intensity of a group thrice their size.

As if unveiling a monument to the tradition on which their artistry is based, the Takacs will begin their concert with a quartet composed by Haydn in 1793, only months after he learned of the death of Mozart. Haydn, who adored and respected the younger composer, was emotionally devastated by his passing, and in some ways never got over the loss. That might explain the decidedly Mozartean moments that occur in the work's lilting second movement. This and five quartets of the same vintage were also the first that Haydn designed for public presentation in a spacious hall. Rackham is ideally suited for music of this nature.

The string quartet tradition is very much alive, and among progressive-minded ensembles there is a growing tendency to program a bracingly contemporary work between two favorites from the classical repertoire. The Takacs Quartet is currently touring a brand-new composition by Timo Andres, a young composer whose innovations enlivened last summer's adventuresome Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival at Kerrytown Concert House. Earlier this year, Andres composed an experimental work entitled "Strong Language." Commissioned specifically for the Takacs Quartet, the piece consists of three repetition structures, which, according to the composer, accrue sonic detritus, cram ever-increasing contrapuntal complexity into a steadily shrinking space, and finally transport the listener to a spectral landscape of plucks, scrapes, and knocks.

The concert will close with Dvorak's fourteenth and final string quartet, sketched while he was still visiting North America and completed back home in Bohemia in 1895. At his best, Dvorak could conjure the everyday mysteries of being alive, framed by the sanguine realities of being Slavic. Intimations of mortality are quietly mulled, then reconsidered with exacting vehemence. A calmer passage suggests a genial chat over wineglasses with Brahms. There is much to savor in each of these works, and we are fortunate to be able to hear them interpreted live by the Takacs Quartet.

—arwulf arwulf

★Kerrytown Crafters. *Every Wed.* All crocheters, knitters, cross stitchers, hand quilters, and other handiworkers invited to work on their projects with other crafters. Questions welcome, help available. *6:30–8:30 p.m. or so, Sweetwaters in Kerrytown, 407 N. Fifth Ave. Free. Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters. 926–8863.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline east of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) $6 per person. 623–8050.*

★Feminist Book Club: Literati Bookstore. All invited to discuss ***The Birth of the Pill,*** Jonathan Eig's book about 4 people who were instrumental in the creation of birth control pills. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. 585–5567.*

★"Health Insurance Options for Michiganders: Why You Should Get It and How": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by a Washtenaw Health Initiative representative. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★"Drugs, Addiction, and the Brain": Ann Arbor District Library. Talk by U-M psychology and neuroscience professor Terry Robinson. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Readings by **Tarfia Faizullah,** a Pushcart Prize–winning Bangladeshi American poet who is also a U-M creative writing lecturer. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mike. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★All School Orchestra Concert: Greenhills School. Performances by middle and upper school students. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4082.*

Tim Grimm: On the Tracks Singer-Songwriter Showcase. Well-crafted story songs about the dreams and realities of American lives by this award-winning Indiana-bred roots music singer-songwriter, who also talks about how he came to write these songs. Opening act is **Ed Dupas,** a local country-folk Americana singer-songwriter. *7–9 p.m., Chelsea Depot, 125 Jackson, Chelsea. $15 suggested donation. Info: call Annie Capps at 330–5226.*

★History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers. All invited to discuss Sylvia Sumira's ***Globes: 400 Years of Exploration, Navigation, and Power.*** *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

★"Introduction to Steiner's Thought": Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. *Every Wed.* All invited to join a discussion of *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path,* also known as *The Philosophy of Freedom,* one of Rudolf Steiner's first major writings and one of the basic books of anthroposophy. *7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 485–3764.*

★Orchestra Concert: Huron High School. Students perform Handel's Allegro for Strings, Newbold's *North Star to Freedom,* Osentowski's *Fantasy on a Chinese Theme,* Gershwin's *An American in Paris,* and the finale from Haydn's Symphony no. 104 ("London"). *7:30 p.m., Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2096.*

Takacs Quartet: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 81.* Founded in Hungary in 1975, this world-renowned, Boulder-based ensemble—and UMS crowd favorite—is known for its warmth, eloquence, and discipline, and for the ease with which it masters demanding pieces. Violinists Edward Dusinberre and Karoly Schranz, violist Geraldine Walther, and cellist Andras Fejer are "four of the best string alchemists on the planet," writes a *Chicago Tribune* reviewer. Tonight they perform Haydn's Quartet in C major, visiting composer Timo Andres' *Strong Language,* and Dvorak's Quartet in A-flat major. *7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $26–$52, in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

★Percussion Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Joshua Roach conducts this ensemble of music majors in U-M music lecturer Roshanne Etezady's *Feast or Famine,* David Lang's *Cheating Lying Stealing,* several duos for percussion, and other globally influenced, very recent works. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. *Nov. 27–29 and Dec. 2, 4, 5, 10–13, 15, 19, & 20.* John Manfredi directs a storyteller and a quartet of carolers in a presentation of Dickens' Christmas tale that Manfredi describes as "somewhere between a radio play and *Prairie Home Companion.*" Cast TBA. *8 p.m. (Tues.–Sat. except Dec. 5 & 19), 3 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 19), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $27 (Tues.–Thurs.) & $34 (Fri.–Sun.). Tickets available in advance by phone and at pntheatre.org, and at the door. $3 discounts for seniors age 60 & older. 663–0681.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 2, 9, & 23.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Ryan Halsey hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor. *Dec. 2, 9, & 16.* Swing dancing to recorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free lesson. *9–11 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. $5 (students, $4; $1 discount for members; free for those who attend the free lesson at 8 p.m.). swingannarbor@umich.edu, 945–8428.*

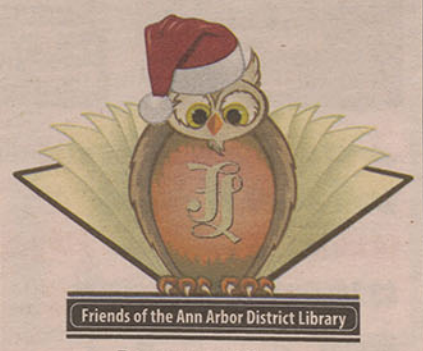
3 THURSDAY

Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Thurs.* All ages invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Lunch available at 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m. ($5.50; age 60 & over, $3; reservations required). *10–11:30 a.m. (Thurs.) & 1–3:30 p.m. (Mon.), Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $2 (members, free). 794–6250.*

★Mah-Jongg: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program. *Every Thurs. through Dec. 17.* All seniors invited to play this intricate game that uses colorful tiles. Beginners welcome. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 332–1874.*

★Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs.* Activities, primarily for seniors, begin at 10 a.m. with **"Energy Exercise"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. *Dec.* 3: Performance by lo-

History Unlocked!
The Washtenaw County Historical Consortium
EXHIBIT OPENS NOV. 29
THE MUSEUM on MAIN STREET
500 N. Main Street • Ann Arbor
Hours: 12-4 PM Saturdays & Sundays
weekdays by appointment, call 734.662.9092
www.WashtenawHistory.org

Annual Holiday Sale
Gift Quality @ Bargain Prices in the Multipurpose Room
The Book Shop will also be open
Books, children's books, CD's, DVD's, games, and puzzles
Saturday, Dec 12 -- 10 to 4
Sunday, Dec 13 -- 1 to 4


Downtown Library
343 S. Fifth Avenue
Friends Book Shop
(734) 302-7774
www.faadl.org

umma STORE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN MUSEUM OF ART

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

EXHIBITIONS OPENING IN DECEMBER

New Technologies and Victorian Society:
Early British Photographs from the UMMA Collection
December 5, 2015–May 8, 2016

Ferhat Özgür: Metamorphosis Chat
December 5, 2015–March 27, 2016

525 South State Street
Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 11am–5pm,
Sunday 12–5pm; **The Museum is always free.**
www.umma.umich.edu

umma
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MUSEUM OF ART

32nd Annual
Ann Arbor City Club
Arts and Crafts Festival
Saturday, December 5, 2015
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Ceramics
Photography
Jewelry
Dolls

Nature Crafts
Wood Working
Watercolors
Children's Furniture

Helen Springer Baskets
Textiles/Fabric Art
Written Works
Much More!

Juried show featuring more than 45 vendors!
Great for holiday shopping!
Lunch available 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
$3 Admission • Free parking

Holiday Greens
Wreaths ❖ Roping ❖ Poinsettias
Cyclamen ❖ Norfolk Pines
Ribbon Bows

Ann Arbor CITY CLUB

1830 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
734-662-3279 • www.annarborcityclub.org

cal pianist **Lillian Freedland.** *Dec. 10:* Performance by U-M music school cello major **Emily Camras.** *Dec. 17:* TBA. *Dec. 24:* TBA. *Dec. 31:* TBA. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free, except as noted. 971–0990.*

"A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories": Wild Swan Theater. *Dec. 3–5.* This award-winning local children's theater presents its adaptation of some of A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh stories about a lovable teddy bear, his endless search for honey, and his stuffed animal pals who live in the Hundred Acre Wood. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language, and audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available by prearrangement for blind audience members. Suitable for kids in grades pre-K–2. *10 a.m. (Dec. 3 & 4), noon (Dec. 4), & 11 a.m. (Dec. 5), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (seniors age 60 & over and kids, $8) in advance at wildswantheater.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 995–0530.*

★**Gifts of Art Concert Series: U-M Hospitals.** *Dec. 3, 10, 17, & 24.* Performances by area musicians. *Dec. 3:* Flute trio **Iridescent Flutes.** *Dec. 10:* **Ann Arbor Klezmer Trio.** *Dec. 17:* **"Holiday Harmonies"** by the local band Counterpoint. *Dec. 24:* **"Sweet Sounds of the Season"** by autoharpist, hammered and mountain dulcimer player, and vocalist Wanda Degen. *12:10–1 p.m., U-M Hospital Main Lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**"Advent and Christmas Meditation": First Baptist Church Coffee Break Concert Series.** First Baptist music director and organist Shin-Ae Chun introduces and plays recordings of Christmas choral music from the 15th–18th centuries by Schütz, Morales, Selle, Lassus, Praetorius, Mouton, and Bach. Refreshments. *12:15 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free. 663–9376.*

2015 Winter Bazaar: U-M Health System Community Programs & Services. Show and sale of arts and crafts in various mediums, including fabric, glass, wood, paper, and more. *3:30–6:30 p.m., UMHS Community Programs & Services (stes. A1–A6), 2025 Traverwood. Free admission. Contact mccarthl@med.umich.edu to become a vendor. 998–2156.*

★**"Exit Hamlet: Betrayal and Portrayal in Colonial Namibia and the Cape, 1929–1960": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** University of the Western Cape (South Africa) African history professor Patricia Hayes discusses the emerging liberation movement in South Africa post-WWI. *4–6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615–7400.*

★**"Karen Finley: Written in Sand": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Speaker Series.** Talk by this New York–based performance artist, musician, and poet whose controversial work on sexuality and disenfranchisement is raw and transgressive. *5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 668–8463.*

★**"Ann Arbor Downtown Group Run": Running Fit.** *Every Mon. & Thurs.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a weekly run, 3–8 miles, along varying routes. Snacks provided. Rain or shine. *6:30 p.m. (Thurs.) & 6:15 p.m. (Mon.), Running Fit, 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769–5016.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Princeton. The U-M also has games this month against **UCLA** (Dec. 13, 2 p.m.), **Miami-Ohio** (Dec. 19, 2:30 p.m.), and **Purdue** (Dec. 31, 1 p.m.). *7 p.m., Crisler Center. $3–$8. 764–0247.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Dec. 3, 10, & 17.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $7. 761–6691.*

★**Ann Arbor Go Club.** *Every Sun. & Thurs.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *7–11 p.m. (Thurs.) & 5–9 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. Free. umich.edu/~goclub*

Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser. All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. *7 p.m., Bona Sera, 200 W. Michigan, Ypsilanti. $10. 973–6084, 663–0036.*

★**Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Club members show and discuss their mineral specimens. Silent auction of mineral and lapidary items. Holiday refreshments. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

★**"Three Across: An Evening with Your Friendly Neighborhood Crossword Constructors": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with 3 Michigan-based crossword puzzle creators—Tracy Bennett, Peter Collins, and Will Nediger—who discuss the challenges of creating a good puzzle, wordplay tips, puzzle pet peeves, and the process of getting from concept to publication. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

Brick and Mortar Collective Fundraiser: Literati Bookstore. Members of this Detroit-based housing collective discuss their mission. Also, Q&A and a sale and auction of art and services. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free admission. 585–5567.*

★**Jazz Band Concert: Pioneer High School.** The **Huron High Jazz Band** and the **Pioneer High Jazz Band** perform works TBA. *7 p.m., Pioneer High School Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium. Free. 996–3210, 994–2096.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Nov. 27–Dec. 20 & Dec. 22 & 23.* Thalia Schramm directs professional actors in the classic Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg musical adaptation of Frank Baum's ever popular fantasy about a young girl's roundabout journey to her heart's desire. The score features "Over the Rainbow," "Follow the Yellow Brick Road," "We're Off to See the Wizard," and more. Stars Mariah Colby, Maeve Donevan, Jennie Rupp, Loren Norris, Wendy Katz Hiller, Daniel A. Helmer, Gayle A. Martin, Dan Morrison, and Nick Brown. *7 p.m. (Thurs. and Dec. 22 & 23), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets $26 (seniors, $24; youth & groups of 10 or more, $22) on Thurs.; $32 (seniors, $30; youth & groups of 10 or more, $28) on Fri. & Sat. eve. $28 (seniors, $26; youth & groups of 10 or more, $24) for all matinees in advance at theencoretheatre.org and at the door. $15 student rush tickets (if available) an hour before showtime. 268–6200.*

★**"The Nether": U-M Basement Arts.** *Dec. 3–5.* Madeline Rouverol directs students in Jennifer Haley's crime drama and sci-fi thriller about a young detective who uncovers a disturbing brand of entertainment that triggers an interrogation into the darkest corners of the imagination. *Note:* Showtimes are tentative. *7 p.m. (Dec. 3–5) & 11 p.m. (Dec. 4), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. facebook.com/basementarts*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31.* Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour, followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear soft-soled shoes. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 (students, free). 971–0990.*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs. except Dec. 24 & 31.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 255–5310.*

"Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus": Saline Area Players. *Dec. 3–6.* Kara Cardella directs local actors in Jamie Gorski's heartwarming play based on the famous 1897 newspaper editorial answering an 8-year-old's question. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 3 & 4), 1 p.m. (Dec. 5), & 3 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6), Fifth Corner, 211 Willis Rd., Saline. Tickets $5. Reservations available by email to virginia@salineareaplayers.org. salineareaplayers.org, 755–6983.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Nov. 27–Dec. 20.* Carla Milarch directs the premiere of local playwrights Becky Fox and Russ Schwartz's seasonal comedy about what happens when 2 unsophisticated Americans attempt a Panto, a British pantomime that blends children's stories with a bit of vaudeville sensibility to create a raucous family entertainment. Cast TBA, including a rotating roster of local celebrities and choirs of local schoolchildren. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.– Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Tickets (if available) are pay what you can afford, in advance at theatrenova.org and at the door. Members ($75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635–8450.*

★**Digital Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Jeremy Edwards directs this ensemble of music majors in original electronic and electro-acoustic works that feature new instruments and performance systems designed by the students. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"Sibelius 150: Sibelius and Contemporaries": U-M Scandinavian Studies Signe Karlström Event. Cellist **Katri Ervamaa** and pianist **Marja Kaisla,** both internationally recognized Finnish-born musicians, perform works by Sibelius and his contemporaries in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Finnish composer's birth. Program: Matti Rautio's Divertimento I, Sibelius's Four Pieces for Cello and Piano, Debussy's Cello Sonata, and Manuel de Falla's *Suite Populaire Espagnole.* Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture on the program by Ervamaa. Reception follows. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

JONATHAN RYDER

Peter Mulvey

Monster musician

Peter Mulvey is a pretty good guitar player, and that's a wild understatement. Here's another: Peter Mulvey has a way with words. He's also not a half-bad bicyclist.

In early September, Mulvey rode his bike, pulling his guitar in a special rig behind him, to a dock in his adopted home town of Milwaukee, took the ferry across Lake Michigan to Muskegon, then biked eighty miles to Remus to play in the annual Wheatland Music Festival. When he comes to the Ark on December 4, he will likely travel more conventionally, since the ferry stopped running on November 1. But that may be the only thing conventional about his show.

Mulvey is a monster guitarist, able to coax supple, intricate, highly ornamented melodies and lush harmonies out of his acoustic six-string. He's equally adept at slashing and pounding out rapid, rhythmic riffs and percussive, danceable grooves that make you crane your neck to see where he's hidden the bass player and drummer. His guitar does not so much accompany his singing as dialogue with it.

Now, about that way of his with words: Mulvey's lyrics sparkle with striking similes ("The girl across the street, she is as light on her feet / As sunlight bouncing off chrome"), hilarious one-liners ("Once I got plastered at my best friend's Bar Mitzvah"), and lines that perfectly illustrate Archibald MacLeish's dictum, "A poem should not mean, but be" ("They say a kiss is just a flower that a bee might return from / And do his little dance at the hive"). His songs are crowded with more words per minute than most rap recordings. In many of them he uses a stream of consciousness that gives them an improvisatory feel but with an underlying coherence and order. Even when you don't catch every word, you can trust something meaningful is happening.

Then there is his well-worn voice, with a lived-in quality that further lends believability to his lyrics and stories. In his forty-minute set at Wheatland, he sang only six songs. The rest of his time he filled with introductions and tales—tall, long, and short—that were informative, interesting, engaging, rambling, quixotic, and thoroughly entertaining. We were with him every second of the way, no matter where his way led.

In a highlight-filled set, he reached the apex with a song he wrote this past June, just days after the killings of nine black people at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. "Take Down Your Flag" powerfully expresses rage and sadness while also poignantly honoring the dead. It's worth seeing him in concert just to hear him sing that song and tell what it has inspired in the extended songwriters' community.

—Sandor Slomovits

"RiffTrax Live: Santa and the Ice Cream Bunny": Fathom Events. Live broadcast (Dec. 3) and rebroadcast (Dec. 15) of a "riffing" performance by former *Mystery Science Theater 3000* stars Michael J. Nelson, Kevin Murphy, and Bill Corbett, who aim their comic heckling at a screening of R. Winer's 1972 fantasy. When Santa's sleigh gets stuck in the sand on a Florida beach, he passes the time by telling local children the story of Thumbelina. Today only, the film is also shown at Rave (4100 Carpenter). *8 p.m. (Dec. 3) & 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 15), Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. Tickets $12 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/rifftrax-live-santa-and-the-ice-cream-bunny and at the door. 623–7469.*

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Nate Fridson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 3–5.* Smart, edgy observational humor by this young Detroit comic who specializes in probing autobiographical anecdotes. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

4 FRIDAY

★28th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce. *Dec. 4–6.* Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows, and luminarias along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. The celebration also includes shows by the Chelsea Area Players Youth Theater and Ballet Chelsea (see listings). *Fri.:* **Tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival** (6–6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), **Santa's workshop** with storytelling and children's crafts (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Depot), **cookie decorating** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea ATA Martial Arts), **storytelling** (6:30–8:30 p.m., Chelsea Farmer's Supply), **Common Chords** handbell choir holiday concert (7–8:30 p.m., Chelsea District Library McKune Room), a **living Nativity** with live animals and a Christmas choir (6:30 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church), and more. *Sat.:* **Free breakfast with Santa** (8:30–10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center), **"Material Girls Christmas Bazaar"** for kids age 4 through 6th grade and a parents' corner & bake sale (10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea First United Methodist Church; preregistration required at chelseafestivals.com), **Gingerbread House decorating** for families (11 a.m.–noon & noon–1 p.m., First Congregational Church; space limited; preregistration required by calling 475–1145), **Holiday Homemade Gift workshop** for teens & tweens (1:30–3 p.m., Chelsea District Library), docent-led **Historic Homes Tour** (2–5

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL
WINTER FESTIVAL

Saturday
December 5, 2015
9am-3pm

2775 Newport Rd., Ann Arbor
Parking with FREE shuttle service at Skyline High School

- Please join us for Children's Crafts and Activities, Artisan Market, Toy Store, Food, Music and more!
- All ages welcome (activities geared for ages 3-10)
- Admission is free, activity tickets available for purchase

734-995-4141 ■ steinerschool.org
winterfestival@steinerschool.org

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL OF ANN ARBOR

LEARN TO SKATE

Basic Skills Group Lessons

WINTER 2016
Jan 5–Mar 5
Tuesday & Thursday, 6:15pm–7:15pm
Saturday 10:15am–11:05am
For ages 3 through adult
REGISTER ONLINE
www.annarborfsc.org

Call or e-mail for info
734.213.6768
aafsc@annarborfsc.org
or visit us online at
www.annarborfsc.org

NEW!! TUESDAY TOTS
Classes for children ages 3 to 6
Tuesdays 10am–10:30am
10:30am–11am
REGISTER ONLINE
www.annarborfsc.org

THERAPEUTIC SKATING
Saturday 11:15am–12:05pm

Skaters enrolled in WINTER 2016 Learn to Skate are eligible to skate in the AAFSC's Annual Show
Melody on Ice
(Enroll when registering for Learn to Skate)
March 18 & 19, 2016
Contact AAFSC Office for information

Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club

The AAFSC Office is located in the Ann Arbor Ice Cube
2121 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor

Home Club of the
AAFSC
HOCKETTES

2015
HOLIDAY
ART FAIR
100 Jury-Selected Artists • Kids' Gift-Making Station
EMU Art Student Gallery • Free Parking
Admission $5, kids 12 and younger admitted free
Visit the website for discount ticket offers!
December 12 & 13
Saturday, 10am - 6pm • Sunday, 11am - 5pm
Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center
on the campus of EMU in Ypsilanti, MI
www.HolidayArtFair.com
Food Donation Partner
Presented by the Ypsi Area CVB
ypsireal.com
Ypsi REAL
Produced by The Guild
www.TheGuild.org • 734.662.3382
Our Sponsors and Community Partners
Renewal by Andersen
100.3 wnic detroit
BathPlanet
BTL Between the Lines
WWJ • 950 NEWSRADIO
ann arbor's 107 one

p.m., starts at First Congregational Church; $15 by calling 562–2008 and at Chelsea Pharmacy), **holiday parade** (6 p.m., along Main St.) featuring dozens of lighted floats and vehicles, marching bands, Santa, and more. *Sun.:* **Hometown Holiday Concert** (3 & 7 p.m., First Methodist Church) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, the First Methodist Mosaic Choir and church organist Kyle Webber, and 18–20 Chelsea High School string and vocal students. The program includes the Gloria from Bach's B minor Mass, Bloch's Concerto Grosso, and a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. *9 a.m.–10 p.m. (Dec. 4 & 5) & noon–7 p.m. (Dec. 6), downtown Chelsea. Free. 475–1145.*

★**"50th Anniversary Open House": WEMU-FM.** An open jazz jam session hosted by bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Glenn Tucker, and drummer Jesse Kramer. All jazz musicians invited, and all present can be part of a "Great Day in the Hall" photo shoot at 3 p.m. Also, station tours led by WEMU staff. Hot chocolate, coffee, and cookies available. WEMU-FM debuted on Dec. 8, 1965. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., King Hall lounge, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2229.*

"A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories": Wild Swan Theater. See 3 Thursday. 10 a.m. & noon.

★**Spanish Playgroup: Manzanitas Spanish Immersion Preschool.** Stories and songs in Spanish. Geared toward kids age 6 months to 5 years, accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Manzanitas, 2626 Packard. Free. 975–9104.*

★**Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Mon. & Fri. through Dec. 21.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Some experience necessary. *12:30–4:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Ethical Histories": U-M Anthropology Department Rappaport Lecture Series.** U-M anthropology professor Webb Keane discusses some of the ways in which ethical concepts emerge and come to be formulated in public life. The last in a series of 4 monthly lectures on "Ethical Life: Its Natural and Social Histories." *3 p.m., Rackham Assembly Hall (4th floor). Free. 764–7274.*

★**"India's Information Deficit and the Governance Challenge": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Lecture by Harvard University public policy professor Rohini Pande. *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB/ International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 615–4059.*

★**"Hands-On Activities": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Fri. except Dec. 25.* All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to try out the equipment in the new AADL Secret Lab, including hand tools, vinyl cutter, letterpress, 3-D printer, spinning wheel, paper crafts, and more. *5–8 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Pets & Pajamas": Huron Valley Humane Society. *Dec. 4 & 18.* Kids ages 5–11 invited to watch an animal-themed movie and interact with adoptable pets. Pizza dinner. Wear pajamas and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. *5–9 p.m., Humane Society, 3100 Cherry Hill (south off Plymouth east of Dixboro). $35 ($15 for additional children). Preregistration required. hshv.org, 661–3575.*

"8th Annual KindleFest: A Christkindlmarket": Kerrytown District Association. A holiday sale featuring local artisans and farmers, live music, a **lantern parade** (6:30 p.m., $10 per lantern or bring your own, lantern purchases available beginning at 4 p.m.) with caroling, fire pits to roast s'mores, and a heated tent. German food, sweets, and beverages. Tonight is also **"Midnight Madness"** (6 p.m.–midnight) in the Kerrytown Market & Shops, with special holiday sales and treats, live music by the **Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Quartet** and **strolling carolers**, and more. *6–10 p.m., Farmers Market, Kerrytown. Free admission. 662–5008.*

"Prison Creative Arts Auction": U-M Residential College. Silent (6:30 p.m.) and live (8 p.m.) auction of works by current and former prison inmates and local artists. Wine & dessert available. Proceeds benefit the 21st Annual Exhibition of Art by Michigan Prisoners at the U-M in March. *6:30–9:30 p.m., U-M Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free admission. 763–0176.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. All invited for a dinner featuring locally produced foods, preceded by a brief Shabbat observance with songs, candle lighting, wine and challah, and discussion on a theme TBA. Children welcome. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required at jewishculturalsociety.org. 975–9872.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 663–2037.*

★**"Polar Express 30th Anniversary Storytime": Barnes & Noble.** Barnes & Noble staff present an interactive reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott Medal–winning tale of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. Also, craft activities for kids age 3 & up, who are invited to come in bedtime attire (complete with pillows and stuffed animals). *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. Reservations required. 973–0846.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Appearance by Santa. Sidewalk entertainment by Elvis impersonator **Chris Solano,** U-M breakdancing club **Element 1,** the vocal jazz octet **Midnight Blue,** and the **Ann Arbor Morris Dancers.** Also, Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA) through Dec. 18 at 3 p.m. in front of Conor O'Neill's (318 S. Main; include a return address to receive a response from Santa). *7–9 p.m. (many stores stay open till midnight), Main Street shopping areas. Free admission. 668–7112.*

"20th Annual Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. *Dec. 4–6.* 150 teams from across the U.S. and Canada compete in the largest synchronized team skating competition in the world. *Times TBA, Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cost TBA. 213–6768.*

★**"An Organist's Christmas": American Guild of Organists.** Detroit organists **Joseph Balistreri** and **Glenn Tucker** are joined by local organist **Mary Zelinski** and the **Boychoir of Ann Arbor** in a program of Christmas music. *7 p.m., First Prebyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. *Dec. 4–6 & 10–13.* EMU drama professor Christine Tanner directs EMU drama students in Sylvia Ashby's adaptation of Lucy Maud Montgomery's beloved 1908 novel about a spirited, redheaded orphan who gets adopted by a middle-age brother and sister living on a farm on Prince Edward Island. Recommended for audiences age 6 & older. *7 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 2 p.m. (Sun.), EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell at Jarvis), Ypsilanti. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $12; kids 12 & under, $7) in advance at emutix.com and by phone (487–2282), and at the door. 487–1221.*

U-M G-Men. This all-male student a cappella group performs songs in various genres. *7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. $10 jhortega@umich.edu, thegmen.org*

★**"The Nether": U-M Basement Arts.** See 3 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

"Oldies Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Funky Frosty Friday. All invited to skate to vintage rock 'n' roll. Prizes for best costume. *7:15–8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6234.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Wisconsin. *Dec. 4 & 5.* The U-M also has matches this month vs. **Minnesota** (Dec. 11, 7 p.m., & Dec. 12, 8:30 p.m.). *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. Ticket price TBA at stubhub.com/michigan-wolverines-hockey-tickets. 764–0247.*

★**"Midnight Madness": Downtown Home & Garden.** All invited for chestnuts roasted on an open fire, a petting zoo with livestock from the local Animal Oasis, and musical performances TBA, 8–11 p.m. *7:30 p.m.–midnight, Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

"Groove Goes Galactic": U-M Groove. This U-M student percussion-and-dance ensemble performs high-energy percussion using traditional and nontraditional instruments (trash cans, propane tanks, toothbrushes, and more). With performances by other U-M student groups. *7:30 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), Michigan Theater. Tickets $8 (students, $5) in advance ticketmaster.com, and (if available) at the door. (800) 745–3000.*

38th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. *Dec. 4–6.* Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Gerald Dzuiblinski and Brian Altevogt direct a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 4 & 5) & 4 p.m. (Dec. 6), Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets $8–$15 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office. 995–7537.*

"Cinderella": EMU Dance Program. EMU dance students perform Prokofiev's classical ballet. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra.** An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute **children's concerts** (reservations required at 487–2448). *7:30 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti.*

Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; children under 12, $6) in advance and at the door. 487–2282.

"Once Upon an Ever After: A Fairy Tale Mash-Up": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. *Dec. 4–6.* Andrea Klooster directs young local actors in her play that explores what happens when Goldilocks, Snow White, and Little Red Riding Hood wander into each other's stories. Appropriate for kids age 4 & up. Cast: Mimi Barnes, Sonja Benjamins-Carey, Gillian Blaszkowski, Maren Brady, Amalia Chappell-Lakin, Allie Deininger, Niciana DeNicolo, Jada Green, Tessa Hanrath, Elijah Hatcher-Kay, Gemma Kennedy, Alyssa Klooster, Jeremy Klooster, Ryan Klooster, ZoeAnne McCurren, Avik Patel, Alaina Pellar-Kosbar, Isabel Perry, Gillian Perry, Carter Schmidt, Grace Snoddy, and Ian Weintraub. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 4), 1 & 3:30 p.m. (Dec. 5 & 6), Children's Creative Center, 1600 Pauline. Tickets $8 (students, seniors, & kids, $5) in advance & at the door. 971–2228.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus": Saline Area Players. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society. All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. *8–10 p.m., 5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (enter through Haven Hall on the Diag side of the building). Free. 764–3440.*

★Contemporary Directions Ensemble: U-M School of Music. This adventurous ensemble of music majors performs works influenced by minimalism and post-minimalism, including Steve Reich's 2009 Pulitzer Prize–winning *Double Sextet,* Greenstein's *Clearing, Dawn, Dance,* Snider's *In Two Worlds,* and visiting composer Timo Andres' *Play It by Ear. 8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"Sounds of the Season": Measure for Measure. This local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High School choir director Steven Lorenz, and the **Grand Valley State University Varsity Men** choral ensemble perform separate programs of holiday music and then join together for Biebl's magnificent Ave Maria and Wendell Whalum's setting of "Somebody's Calling My Name." *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. $15 (kids age 12 & under, students with ID, & seniors, $12) in advance and (if available) at the door. 649–7664.*

Lee Murdock: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). This veteran Great Lakes troubadour writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he is joined by his group, the Blue Horizon Band, to perform his **"Christmas Ship Concert,"** a family concert commemorating a late 19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with decks piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. *Dec. 4 & 5.* U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. *8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. $7 at the door only. 763–5460.*

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Nate Fridson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Dec. 4, 11, & 18.* Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, and Balboa dancing to music spun by DJs. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by a free beginner lesson. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main. $5 (students with ID, $4; $1 discount for AACTMAD members). 417–9857.*

5 SATURDAY

"Washtenaw County Gulls": Washtenaw Audubon Society. WAS member Rob French leads a trip (in the WAS van) to the Arbor Hills Landfill in Salem Township to look for unusual species of gulls. Dress for the weather; the landfill is usually windy. *8:40 a.m.–1 p.m., meet at the Park-n-Ride lot, Plymouth Rd. at US-23. $5 minimum donation for van rental & fuel. Space limited; preregistration required by email to webmaster@washtenawaudubon.org or by calling 645–2547.*

★"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Natural History Museum. This family-oriented dinosaur program is highlighted by "Digging Dinosaurs" (11 a.m. and 1 & 3 p.m.), a presentation by Midland paleontologist Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl, author of the children's book *Hidden Dinosaurs* and coauthor of the Dinosaur Detective Club series, on how dinosaur fossils are formed and the stories they tell. Also, a fossil dig, a dinosaur craft, a chance to meet and talk with some U-M paleontologists, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

32nd Annual Arts & Crafts Festival: Ann Arbor City Club. Juried show and sale of photography, jewelry, dolls, nature crafts, woodworking, watercolors, children's furniture, ceramics, textiles, fabric art, and much more by more than 45 vendors. Also, a sale of holiday greens, including wreaths, roping, cyclamen, Norfolk pines, and poinsettias. Lunch available (11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.). *9 a.m.–4 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $3 admission. 662–3279.*

Annual Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Senior Center. Local vendors and artisans show and sell handmade crafts. Also, the popular "Granny's Attic" rummage sale, a bake sale, and more. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free admission. 426–7737.*

Holiday Bazaar: Dexter Heritage Guild. A sale of homemade items, including Christmas gifts, wooden and soft toys, ornaments, apparel, homemade baked goods, and much more. Also, bake sale, raffle. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Dexter Area Historical Museum, 3443 Inverness, Dexter. Free admission. 426–2519.*

"Christmas at the Mansion": Dexter Area Historical Society. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Two days of seasonal events at Gordon Hall, the 19th-century mansion built by Dexter founder Judge Samuel Dexter whose many rooms have all been lavishly decorated for the holidays. *Dec. 5:* **"Vintage Toys and Magical Memories."** Display of a large assortment of vintage toys collected from several sources. Also, all invited to make one of several country Christmas crafts to take home, including clothespin dolls, walnut/acorn ornaments, candle jars, and Christmas paper houses. **Santa** is on hand to talk with kids. Refreshments. *Dec. 6:* **"If Teapots Could Talk."** Light lunch and tour of Gordon Hall. *9 a.m.–5 p.m. (Sat.) and 1 & 4 p.m. seatings (Sun.), Gordon Hall, 8347 Island Lake Rd. (off Dexter-Pinckney Rd. just west of downtown Dexter). $5 (kids ages 5–12, $1) on Sat., $25 (reservations required by calling 395–4106) on Sun. 426–4767.*

"Winter Festival": Rudolf Steiner School. An artisan market, a toy room, storytelling and puppet theater, and kids' activities, including jump rope winding and candle dipping. Musical performances, raffle, and refreshments. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Rudolf Steiner School, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995–4141.*

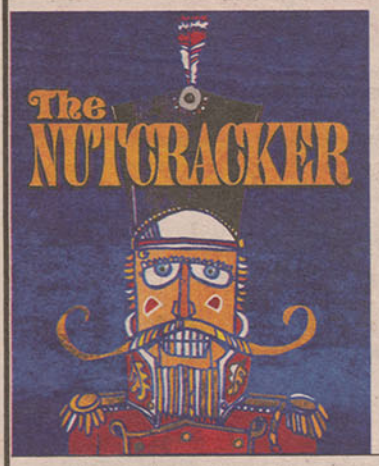
★"Each of Us a Reporter?": Public Citizens of Washtenaw (formerly Gray Panthers of Washtenaw). Retired *Detroit Free Press* reporter Joel Thurtell talks about how he got to be a big city reporter without formal journalism training and how, thanks to the Internet, anyone can be an independent, freethinking journalist. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 484–1628.*

Holiday Sale: Ann Arbor Potters Guild. *Dec. 5 & 6.* A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics and holiday ornaments. Also, a kids' area with gifts priced for their budgets. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild Studio, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663–4970.*

"Mega Sale & Extravaganza": Motawi Tileworks. Tile-making demonstrations, a tile sale, and a chance to make a tile. Door prize, snacks, and discounts. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., Motawi, 170 Enterprise Dr. (north of Jackson Rd. between Staebler & Baker). Free admission. 213–0017.*

All the Trimmings Holiday Art Show. An array of works by local artisans, including wood carvings, counted cross-stitch embroidery, folk paintings, pastels, textiles, jewelry, bears, rug hooking, chair caning, and more. Also, antiques & collectibles, locally roasted coffee, and fresh Christmas greens. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Chelsea Fairgrounds, W. Old US-12 at Manchester Rd., Chelsea. Free admission. 475–2159.*

★Christmas Party: Downtown Home & Garden. Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them Christ-



TWO SHOWS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015
MICHIGAN THEATER, ANN ARBOR
603 E. LIBERTY ST. ANN ARBOR, MI 48104
CURTAIN AT 7:00
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TICKETMASTER.COM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2015
BRIGHTON CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
7878 BRIGHTON ROAD BRIGHTON, MICHIGAN
CURTAIN AT 6:30
TICKETS ONLINE AT BRIGHTONPERFORMINGARTS.COM
OR CALL 810-299-4130

THE ACADEMY OF RUSSIAN CLASSICAL BALLET
46969 WEST ROAD, WIXOM, MI 48393 - 248-982-7882
76 N. HURON STREET, YPSILANTI, MI 48197 - 734-834-6366
WWW.RUSSIANCLASSICALBALLET.COM

First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

Downtown:
120 S. State St. at Huron
Regular Sunday worship at 9:30 & 11:15 am

Green Wood:
1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way
Regular Saturday worship at 5 pm

www.fumc-a2.org
734.662.4536

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 Downtown, 7:00 pm
A Christmas Celebration
Join a festive family Christmas Concert with favorite solo selections, carol arrangements, and an audience carol-sing.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 Green Wood, 5:00 pm
A Service of Light & Darkness
We remember we are not alone in our struggles and that God promises to wipe away our tears and offer abundant life.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 Downtown, 5:00 pm
Youth Christmas Drama: Bethlehem Inn
This heart-warming journey of hilarious escapades will entertain the whole family. Live nativity follows on our front steps.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
Downtown Christmas Eve Services
5:00 pm Service for young children and their families
7:30 pm Family service featuring children & adult ensembles
11:00 pm Candlelight service with music provided by the Chancel Choir & Instrumental ensemble
Parking available for a fee at Liberty Square Garage
Green Wood Christmas Eve Service
5:00 pm Candlelight Family Service

SCHOOL OF
MUSIC, THEATRE & DANCE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
HENRY IV
PART I
by William Shakespeare
Dept. of Theatre & Drama • 2015-2016 Season
Dec. 10 at 7:30 PM • Dec. 11 & 12 at 8 PM
Dec. 13 at 2 PM • Power Center
Tickets $28 & $22 • Students $12 w/ID
League Ticket Office • 734-764-2538 • tickets.music.umich.edu

mas oranges, and take their Christmas lists. Free eggnog, hot cider, chestnuts roasted on an open fire, cranberry salad and other side dishes, and, while they last, mouth-watering morsels of smoked Christmas turkey. Also, a performance by the Community High School Jazz Band. *10 a.m.–1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662–8122.*

★**"Just Babies!": Ann Arbor District Library.** KinderMusik teacher Denise Owens presents a program for pre-walking babies age 3 months & older. *10–10:40 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market and Shops.** *Dec. 5, 12, & 19.* Humans of Ann Arbor photographer Susan K. Campbell is on hand to take photos, which will be posted on one of the Kerrytown Market and Shops trees the following week. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Kerrytown Market & Shops upstairs. Free. 662–5008.*

Holiday Healthy Gift Fair: Gaia Center/Naturopathic School of the Healing Arts. Sale of elixirs, tonics, tea, salves, ointments, care baskets, and more. *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Gaia Center/NSHA, 7920 Jackson Rd. Free admission. annarbormassageschool.com, 604–2547.*

"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School": Waterloo Farm Museum. *Dec. 5 & 6.* This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas, and the log house features 1840s décor. Singers perform traditional holiday songs, a blacksmith works at the forge, and costumed guides lead tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse and the one-room Dewey School. Also, a traditional Christmas program at the school (time TBA). Sales of baked goods, holiday greens, and gifts. Refreshments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 5) & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 6), Waterloo Farm Museum, 13493 Waterloo-Munith Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. 5 miles north from I-94 exit 153), Waterloo Recreation Area, Chelsea. $5 admission (kids ages 5–12, $2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 596–2254.*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway.** *Dec. 5, 19, & 26.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Proceeds from the Dec. 26 race benefit the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $16 to race ($8 to rent a car, if available). (517) 960–5252.*

★**"Coloring the Universe": U-M Physics Department Saturday Morning Physics.** University of Alaska physics and astronomy professor Travis Rector gives a behind-the-scenes look at how professional astronomers generate color astronomical images. Part of a popular series of talks, aimed at general audiences, by U-M and visiting scholars. *10:30 a.m., 170 & 182 Weiser Hall (formerly the Dennison Bldg.), 500 Church. Free. 764–4437.*

★**"Wonderful and Unusual Gifts": Nature's Expressions.** *Nov. 28 & 29 and Dec. 5 & 6.* Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and insects, and more. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free admission. 994–3048.*

★**Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble.** *Every Sat. except Dec. 26.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids age 3 & up. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Sign Language for Infants and Toddlers": Ann Arbor District Library.** Kathy Brady presents a program of songs, games, and other activities for infants and toddlers (accompanied by a parent) to introduce them to the Signing Smart method of sign language. *11–11:45 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

"West Side Neighborhood Art Hop." The homes and studios of several west-side artists are open for a show and sale of their art and craft items. Live music at some venues. *11 a.m.–5 p.m., venues and map available at facebook.com/WestsideNeighborhoodArtHop and westsidearthop.wordpress.com. Free admission. 996–0702, 757–3717.*

★**"Hunting Mammoths and Mastodons!": U-M Natural History Museum.** *Every Sat. & Sun. through Dec. 26 & 27.* Hands-on 20-minute family-oriented presentation on the evidence—including a recent mammoth find—of mastodon and mammoth hunting by people who lived in Michigan between 10 and 15 thousand years ago. *11 a.m. (Sat.) & 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"1930s Christmas on the Farm": Saline Area Historical Society. *Dec. 5, 12, & 19.* A re-creation of a Depression-era Christmas, with natural decorations. Also, demos of a sock-knitting machine, quilting, and (tentatively) spinning. Gifts shop & light refreshments. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., Rentschler Farm Museum, 1265 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. Donation. salinehistory@frontier.com, 944–0442.*

"Annual Croissant Concert": Kerrytown Concert House. A popular holiday tradition featuring **Today's Brass Quintet,** an ensemble of area professional musicians that performs pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Members are trumpeters Mitchell Wechsler and Jean Moorehead Libs, tuba player Joseph DeMarsh, trombonist Brian Robson, and French horn player Alan Taplin. Croissants, coffee, & fresh-squeezed juice. *11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $10). Reservations recommended. Kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories": Wild Swan Theater. See 3 Thursday. 11 a.m.

★**"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA.** U-M student docents and UMMA staffers read stories in one of the museum's galleries. Followed by an art activity. For kids ages 4–7 accompanied by a parent. Siblings welcome. *11:15 a.m.–noon, UMMA (meet in front of the museum store), 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

U-M Natural History Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun. and Dec. 28– 30.* Two different audiovisual planetarium shows. ***The Sky Tonight*** (Sat. and Dec. 28–30, 11:30 a.m.; Sat. & Sun. and Dec. 28–30, 1:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3:30 p.m.) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Season of Light*** (Sat. and Dec. 28–30, 12:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2:30 p.m.) is an audiovisual show that explores how telescopes work and what they can do. *Various times, U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $5. 764–0478.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Discs can be borrowed at park office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $7 per player; free for spectators. $7 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

"The Nutcracker": New York City Ballet (Fathom Events). Live broadcast of the NYCB's production of George Balanchine's classic choreography of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *12:55 p.m. (Dec. 5) & 7 p.m. (Dec. 10), Quality 16 (Dec. 5), 3686 Jackson and Rave (Dec. 10), 4100 Carpenter. Tickets $17 (discounts for seniors & kids) in advance at fathomevents.com/event/new-york-city-ballet and at the door. 623–7469.*

"Creature Encounters: Reindeer!": The Creature Conservancy. *Every Sat.* All invited to view Sven the reindeer on the conservancy's Stone Stage (2 & 4 p.m.). Also, a chance to view the conservancy's other indoor and outdoor animals, including kangaroos, prairie dogs, an alligator, muntjac deer, snapping turtles, vultures, Arctic foxes, emus, eagle owls, and others. Indoor picnic area by a fire (bring a snack, if you wish). *1–5 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (kids ages 2–12, $4; age 1 & under, free). 929–9324.*

★**German Family Open House: Kempf House Museum.** *Dec. 5, 6, 12, & 13.* Guided tours of this restored 19th-century Greek Revival home, which is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early 20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. *1–4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour: Ypsilanti Meals on Wheels Fundraiser. Tour of 5 or 6 Ypsilanti homes. Also, an evening **candlelight tour** and **"Taste of Ypsilanti"** (5–11 p.m.) includes a strolling dinner of food from area restaurants and ends with an afterglow dessert party at the Ladies' Literary Club. *1–4 p.m., various locations. Tickets $15 (daytime tour only) & $40 (day & evening events) in advance at ymow.org, Nelson Amos Studio, Haab's restaurant, and the YMOW office. 487–9669.*

★**"Outline/Flood Cookie Decorating": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn an easy way to decorate holiday cookies. *1–3 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Animals in Rhyme: Stories from the Friends of Mother Goose": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members Beverly Black, Steve Daut, Laura Lee Hayes, and Jennifer Otto present a fun-filled hour of animal stories and rhymes for kids in grades preK–3. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus": Saline Area Players. See 3 Thursday. 1 & 3 p.m.

"Once Upon an Ever After: A Fairy Tale Mash-Up": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 4 Friday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Houston Baptist. The U-M also has games this month against **Delaware**

State (Dec. 12, noon), **Northern Kentucky** (Dec. 15, 7 p.m.), **Youngstown State** (Dec. 19, 6 p.m.), and **Bryant** (Dec. 23, 7 p.m.). *2 p.m., Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA at mgoblue.com/tickets. 764–0247.*

★"No-Sew Fleece Pillows": Ann Arbor District Library. Craft activity for adults and youth in grade 3 & up. *2–3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Build a Bedroom Planetarium": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids in grades K–8 invited to learn how to build a planetarium to light up their rooms with their favorite constellations. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★Dinosaur Tours: U-M Natural History Museum. *Every Sat. & Sun.* 30-minute docent-led tour of the museum's dinosaur exhibits. *2 p.m., U-M Natural History Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free, but limited to the first 15 people to sign up for each tour. 764–0478.*

★"Saturday Sampler": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. *Dec. 5, 12, & 19.* Docent-led tours on various themes. *2 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. 764–9304.*

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Attendees asked to call ahead if there's inclement weather. *2:30–5 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. juggling.info@umich.edu, umich.edu/~juggle, 761–1115.*

"Strum & Drum": Oz's Music Environment. Families invited to get on stage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. Also, at 4 p.m. a free **Kids Open Stage.** *3–4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. $15 per family. 662–8283.*

★Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Dec. 5 & 19.* All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook,* Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection,* and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. *Note:* Most of the Dec. 5 session is practice for an upcoming gig. *3–6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 994–9307.*

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

Holiday Artist's Show: Be Hair Now. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Show and sale of jewelry, pottery, fiber art, mixed-media works, and art books by 5 local artists. *4–8 p.m. (Dec. 5) & 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 6), Be Hair Now, 202 Miller. Free admission. 260–0629.*

"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. This popular annual family concert features a carol sing-along led by former orchestra staff member Charley Sullivan as Santa. Musicians include a pianist TBA, oboist Timothy Michling, and Pioneer High School choral groups Desperate Measures, Dissonance, and Pioneers. Followed by **photos with Santa** ($10 suggested donation), arts & crafts, and cookies & cider. The concert is preceded 3–3:45 p.m. by an **instrument petting zoo** and other musical activities. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $12 (kids, $8; family of 6 or fewer, $35) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, ste. 470) & at a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

"Parents' Night Out": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Parents invited to leave their kids ages 6–12 for a pizza dinner and a chance to visit with LSNC's hawks, owls, and falcons and learn about their flight abilities and their adaptations for survival. *5–10 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. $30 (members, $25) per child. 997–1533.*

★Annual Holiday Parade: Saline Area Chamber of Commerce. The 40th annual parade features floats, bands, baton twirlers, unicyclists, dancers, Mrs. Claus, horses, goats, dogs, Santa in his sleigh with his chief elf, a train boxcar, a hot air balloon, and more. This year's theme is "Sights & Sounds of Christmas." *5:30–7 p.m., downtown Saline. Free. 429–4494.*

★Violin Studio Recital: U-M School of Music. Performances by students of Danielle Belen. *5:30 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, including fiction writers Josh Garfinkel and Menachem Kaiser. *7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615–3710.*

U-M Amazin' Blue. This a cappella ensemble performs pop songs. *7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $5 in advance; $10 (students, $5) at the door. smaniam@umich.edu*

Fall Concert: U-M Maize Mirchi. This South Asian student a cappella ensemble performs student-written arrangements of Indian, Western, and fusion music. *7 p.m., 1324 East Hall, 530 Church. $10 (students, $5). anuvora@umich.edu*

"Harmawaii": U-M Harmonettes. This all-female a cappella ensemble performs pop songs such as Hozier's "Take Me to Church," Panic! at the Disco's "The End of All Things," and Florence + the Machine's "Drumming Song." *7 p.m., MLB Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington. $10 (students, $7). hanwhite@umich.edu*

Britishmania: EMU Music Department. This New Jersey–based national touring Beatles tribute band re-creates the Beatles meteoric career from the Ed Sullivan Show and Shea Stadium era to *Abbey Road* and *Let It Be. 7 p.m., Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $20–$35 (students, $10) in advance at emutix.com and at the door. 487–2282.*

"20th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. This ad hoc local multi-ethnic vocal ensemble presents an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide giving voice to desires for social change, peace, and justice. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include La'Ron Williams, D. Yarrow Halstead, Robin Wilson, Laura Machida, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, Edie Lewis, Faye Askew-King, Zakiyyah Ali, Deborah Greene, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Mary Wilson, and Jeff Pickell, along with 2 guest instrumentalists, keyboard virtuoso Brian Buckner and guitarist Sam Clark. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit Youth Action Michigan, a student-led initiative of the Student Advocacy Center of Michigan. *7 p.m., First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $15 in advance at Kaleidoscope Books & Collectibles (995–9887), $20 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 761–7962, 369–4977.*

"A Latin Holiday": Alberto Nacif & Aguankó (Kerrytown Concert House). Conga and bongo player Nacif leads this Afro-Cuban jazz band in works from the band's 2013 and 2015 albums as well as their upcoming Christmas Latin jazz recording. With timbales player Jose Espinosa, pianist Rick Roe, saxophonist Russ Miller, bassist Pat Prouty, trombonist Chris Smith, and trumpeter Anthony Stanco. *7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers ages 8–18 in a production of her choreography of Tchaikovsky's ballet, with narration based on E.T.A. Hoffman's "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King." The Dec. 6 matinee is preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy Tea** ($12 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. *2 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 7 p.m. (Sat.), Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. $18 (seniors age 60 & over, $15; students, $12) in advance at balletchelsea.org and at the door. 475–3070.*

"The Nutcracker": Academy of Russian Classical Ballet. Faculty and students from this suburban Detroit ballet school perform Tchaikovsky's ballet. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $25–35 in advance at all Ticketmaster outlets (ticketmaster.com) and russianclassicalballet.com, and at the door. (248) 982–7882.*

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Friday. 7 p.m.

★"The Nether": U-M Basement Arts. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle led by percussionist Curtis Glatter. Bring a drum or use one provided. *7:30–9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $5 suggested donation. 480–1219.*

"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. *Dec. 5 & 6.* Sara Randazzo directs this local company in new choreography of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. *2 & 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 5) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 6), Ypsilanti High School Auditorium, 2095 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $20 (students & seniors, $15; kids age 12 & under, $8) in advance at randazzodancecompany.com and at the door. kathywaugh@gmail.com*

38th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 4 Friday 7:30 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

Milonga: U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Dec. 5 & 19.* Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. *8 p.m.–midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Room (Dec. 5) & Michigan Union Anderson Room (Dec. 19). $10 (members, $5). umich.edu/~matc*

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Ray Bantle calls to music by the Stout Hearted String Band. All dances taught; no partner needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled

COMING SOON! MICHIGAN THEATER

STORYPOINT PRESENTS
Shine. Everyday.
HOLIDAY CLASSIC FILM SERIES
FREE ADMISSION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 • 1:30 PM
ELF
(2003) (PG)
SPONSORED BY Emerson SCHOOL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6 • 1:30 PM
THE MUPPET CHRISTMAS CAROL
(1992) (PG)
SPONSORED BY GREENHILLS SCHOOL · ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN ·
PART OF THE TOYOTA FAMILY-FRIENDLY FILM SERIES PRESENTED BY THE BENARD L. MAAS FOUNDATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 • 1:30 PM
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS
(2000) (PG)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 • 1:30 PM
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE
(1946) (PG)

PRESENTED BY OLD NATIONAL BANK
SESI LINCOLN
MEDIA SUPPORT FROM current

THE BENARD L. MAAS FOUNDATION
NOTJUSTFORKIDS
FAMILY-FRIENDLY PROFESSIONAL THEATER 2015-2016
PRESENTED BY TOYOTA

THE EMMY-NOMINATED TV SENSATIONS
TICKETS START AT JUST $10

SATURDAY, DEC. 12 1:30 PM
DAYTIME EMMY NOMINEES ARIEL, ZOEY & ELI present a special concert that will include their favorite songs, music to get you in the holiday spirit, and a few surprises!
SPONSORED BY Kerrytown Market & Shops
TICKETS AT TICKETMASTER.COM, NICOLA'S BOOKS IN ANN ARBOR, OR CHARGE BY PHONE 800-745-3000.

Blue Care Network of Michigan
GreenCurrents

MICHIGAN THEATER
ANN ARBOR'S DOWNTOWN CENTER FOR FINE FILM & PERFORMING ARTS
603 E. LIBERTY ST. • (734) 668-TIME • MICHTHEATER.ORG

ANN ARBOR'S DOWNTOWN CENTER FOR FINE FILM AND THE PERFORMING ARTS
603 E. LIBERTY ST. • (734) 668-TIME • WWW.MICHTHEATER.ORG

Happy Holidays from

Maggie's Organics since 1992

your LOCAL organic
SOCK & APPAREL COMPANY

HELP US GIVE BACK

Spend $35 on our website:
You get a FREE pair of socks and we also give a pair to a local person in need.

USE CODE: GIVEGET AT CHECKOUT
(Offer Expires December 31st, 2015)

Also shop Maggie's at:
Plum Market - People's Food Coop
Perpetua - 4th Avenue Birkenstock
Van Boven - Ypsi Food Coop - Arbor Farms

maggiesorganics.com

Allen Creek Preschool

Allen Creek Preschool supports the healthy growth of children with a unique educational experience, where children and parents lay the foundation for future social, emotional, and academic success.

Half Day Four-Five's Class
Parent-Toddler Programs Ages 1-3
Preschool Classes Ages 3-4
Afternoon Art Classes Ages 4-9

www.allencreek.org
office@allencreek.org | (734)994-3382
2350 Miller Avenue, Ann Arbor

films

Note: Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Ann Arbor Senior Center. $2 (members, free). 794–6250. 1320 Baldwin, 12:30 p.m.

Every Mon.: **"Movie Matinee,"** with films TBA.

Fathom Events. 623–7469 (Quality 16) & 973–8424 (Rave). Different times and locations.

Nov. 29 & Dec. 1: **"Roman Holiday"** (William Wyler, 1953). Classic film about a runaway princess who leaves the castle to have a fling with a reporter. Gregory Peck, Audrey Hepburn. With a Turner Classic Movies introduction to the film. $12 in advance at fathomevents.com/event/roman-holiday and at the door. Quality 16 (3686 Jackson), 2 & 7 p.m.

Dec. 28: **"Dr. Who Christmas Special."** Broadcast of the special Christmas episode of this long-running BBC show about a space- and time-traveling humanoid alien. Set on Christmas Day in the future, this episode is highlighted by the return of professor River Song, who meets her husband's new incarnation for the first time. $14 (seniors, $13; kids, $12) in advance at fathomevents.com/event/doctor-who-christmas-special-2015. Rave (4100 Carpenter), 7:30 p.m.

Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. $5 suggested donation. 327–0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

Dec. 19: **"Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

Dec. 18: **"The Tree of Life"** (Terrence Malick, 2011). Coming-of-age drama set in the 1950s that centers on the eldest son of a Waco (TX) family with 3 boys. Brad Pitt, Sean Penn. Followed by discussion.

Karma Thegsum Choling. FREE. 678–7549. 614 Miner, 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 16: **"My Reincarnation"** (Jennifer Fox, 2011). A Tibetan Buddhist master struggles with his Western-born son, who was recognized at birth as the reincarnation of a famous spiritual master but wants to abandon his tradition to embrace the modern world.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; weekdays before 6 p.m., $7). Michigan Theater (unless otherwise noted), times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Opens Nov. 25: **"Trumbo"** (Jay Roach, 2015). Biopic about the successful Hollywood screenwriter Dalton Trumbo, who was blacklisted in the 1940s for being a Communist. Bryan Cranston.

Dec. dates TBA: **"Carol"** (Todd Haynes, 2015). A young woman falls for an older married woman in 1950s New York. Rooney Mara, Cate Blanchett.

Dec. 2: **"Pecker"** (John Waters, 1998). *See review, p. 79.* Comedy about the rise to fame of an unassuming, pure-hearted photographer from Baltimore. Edward Furlong, Christina Ricci, Mink Stole.

Dec. 6: **"The Muppet Christmas Carol"** (Brian Henson, 1992). The Muppets retell the classic Dickens story. Michael Caine (as Scrooge), Gonzo (as Dickens), Kermit, Miss Piggy, and Fozzie Bear. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 7: **"T-REX"** (Zackary Canepari & Drea Cooper, 2015). Documentary about a 17-year-old from Flint who dreams of becoming the first woman in history to win a gold medal in Olympic boxing.

Dec. 9: **"Cecil B. Demented"** (John Waters, 2000). Satire about the crazed exploits of an independent filmmaker, enraged by the commercial film industry, who kidnaps a Hollywood star.

Dec. 10: **"Downton Abbey."** Preview showing of the 1st hour of season 6 of this hugely popular British period drama that returns to Detroit Public Television in January. Free (4-ticket limit) but reservations required at downtonabbeyseason6preview.eventbrite.com. 7 p.m.

Dec. 11: **"Warren Miller's Chasing Shadows"** (Warren Miller, 2015). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller began making family-oriented ski adventure films in 1950. Though no longer directed by Miller, the films are still a major draw on the West Coast, where they pack houses for week-long runs, and at the Michigan Theater, whose annual showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets $15 (kids age 12 & under, $12) in advance at Sun & Snow & all Ticketmaster outlets (ticketmaster.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000. 7:30 p.m.

Opens Dec. 11: **"Labyrinth of Lies"** (Giulio Ricciarelli, 2014). Drama about the conspiracy of prominent German institutions and government branches to cover up Nazi crimes during WWII. German, subtitles.

Dec. 13: **"How the Grinch Stole Christmas"** (Ron Howard, 2000). Adaptation of the classic Dr. Seuss tale. Jim Carrey. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 14: **"Consumed"** (Daryl Wein, 2015). Thriller in which a working-class single mom's investigation into her son's illness leads her to the world of genetically modified foods. $10 in advance at gathr.us/screening/13701. This screening will take place only if enough advance tickets are sold by Dec. 4. 7 p.m.

Dec. 18–24: **"Macbeth"** (Justin Kurzel, 2015). Adaptation of Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

Dec. 20: **"It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Christmas classic about a man who wants to lasso the moon and an angel who hasn't yet earned his wings. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Dec. 25: **"Big"** (Penny Marshall, 1988). Family-friendly comedy about a young boy whose wish to be big turns him into an adult. Stars Tom Hanks. Sponsored by Temple Beth Emeth. Tickets $7 in advance by Dec. 22 at templebethemeth.org; $10 (kids age 12 & under, $7) at the door. 10:30 a.m. (doors open at 10 a.m.).

Opens Dec. 25: **"Youth"** (Paolo Sorrentino, 2015). A retired orchestra conductor is on vacation in the Alps when he receives an invitation from Queen Elizabeth to perform for Prince Philip's birthday. Michael Caine, Harvey Keitel, Rachel Weisz.

State Theater. For complete, updated schedule, see michtheater.org or call 761–8667. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $10 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, $8; MTF members, $7.50; films before 6 p.m. & midnight movies, $8).

Dec. 4: **"Love Actually"** (Richard Curtis, 2003). A warm, bighearted romantic comedy about half a dozen couples in love, highlighted by a wizened, boorish rock star. Alan Rickman, Bill Nighy, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant, Liam Neeson. 7 p.m.

Dec. 12: **"Die Hard"** (John McTiernan, 1988). Action thriller about an off-duty cop who takes on a gang of thieves using hostages to keep the police at bay. Bruce Willis. Midnight.

Opens Dec. 25: **"The Danish Girl"** (Tom Hooper, 2015). Biopic about the relationship between 1920s Danish artist Gerda Wegener and her pioneering transgender husband who had one of the first male-to-female sex reassignment surgeries. **"Joy"** (David O. Russell, 2015). Comic drama about a woman who becomes founder and matriarch of a powerful family business dynasty. Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper, Robert De Niro.

U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group. FREE. 764–2253. 1180 U-M Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel at Murfin, North Campus. 7 p.m.

Dec. 8: **"Dark City"** (Alex Proyas, 1998). Futuristic sci-fi fantasy about a man who wakes with no memory of his life or the murder he may have committed.

U-M Romance Languages & Literatures Lusophone Film Festival. Semester-long showcase of contemporary Portuguese language films shown with subtitles. The screenings are preceded by an introduction by a U-M faculty or grad student expert in the country of the film. FREE. 764–8164. Various times and locations.

Dec. 3: **"Tattoo"** (Hilton Lacerda, 2013). In the midst of a 20-year-long military dictatorship, an anarchist theater group puts on subversive, queer, avant-garde cabaret shows that attract the attention of a mild-mannered soldier. 7 p.m., State Theater.

shoes. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 662–9290, 769–1052.*

★"Mélodies Françaises: With and Without Words": U-M School of Music. Piano and cello students are joined by guest vocalists in French art songs by composers from Berlioz to Poulenc. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"137th Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). *Dec. 5 & 6.* Scott Hanoian directs the 175-voice Choral Union, harpsichordist **Joseph Gascho,** organist **Scott VanOrnum,** and members of the **Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra** in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano **Mary Wilson,** mezzo-soprano **Elizabeth DeShong,** tenor **Matthew Plenk,** and bass-baritone **Michael Sumuel.** The Choral Union *Messiah,* featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. *8 p.m. (Dec. 5) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 6), Hill Auditorium. $10–$36 in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department. See 4 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

Nate Fridson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 3 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

6 SUNDAY

★"Caring Santa": Briarwood. All kids with special needs are invited for a "sensory friendly" visit with Santa. The event is held when the mall is closed to create a calmer environment. *8–10:30 a.m., Briarwood. Free. Preregistration requested at http://ow.ly/UnVLH. 769–9610.*

Saline Antiques & Vintage Market. Show and sale of antiques and vintage items in various styles, including Americana, art deco, mission, mid-century modern, industrial, shabby chic, continental, and more. Deliveries available. Concessions. Leashed pets welcome. *9 a.m.–4 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $6 (children age 15 & under accompanied by an adult, free). salinemarket@gmail.com, (937) 875–0808.*

Gift-Fest: Ann Arbor Artists' Collective. 17th annual holiday show and sale of original works in painting, wood, jewelry, ceramics, glass, fiber, paper, basketry, and more. Refreshments & a raffle of artist-made ornaments. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. Free admission. 272–2901.*

Artists' Market: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. More than 35 local artists and crafters show and sell works in various media, including sculpture, fabric, jewelry, paintings, photography, and more. *10 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; metered parking. 647–7600.*

★Hanukkah Celebration: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Family-oriented program featuring candle lighting, singing & dancing, craft activities, games, and a Hanukkah Shop where—for a nominal cost—kids can purchase gifts for family and friends. Lots and lots of homemade latkes. All invited. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

★"Sundays with Gelek Rimpoche": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Every Sun.* Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor. *11 a.m.–noon, Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994–3387.*

"From Two Shahs to the Islamic Republic": Jewish Community Center. Talk by Al Gourdji, a retired Dow Corning corporate officer who lived the first 19 years of his life in Iran. The program begins with brunch. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $5 includes brunch. 971–0990.*

★H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sun.* All invited to a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot. Free. hac-ultimatelist@googlegroups.com, 846–9418.*

"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association. Re-creation of a mid 19th-century Christmas, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live holiday music. Also, a chance to make period holiday crafts to take home. Handmade crafts from local crafters for sale. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds. *Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to Buhr Park). $2 (family, $5; seniors, $1.50; kids, $1; children under 3, free). 794–7120.*

★"Mosaic Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library. Mosaicgeek.com creator Shannon Kuchera shows adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to make delicate mosaics to wear as jewelry. Supplies provided. *12:30–2:30 p.m. & 3:30–5:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division. *Dec. 6 & 12.* All invited to help maintain the natural areas in various city parks. Wear long pants and closed-toe shoes;

tools, snacks, & know-how provided. Minors must be accompanied by an adult or obtain a release form in advance. *Dec. 6:* **Leslie Woods Nature Area** *(1–4 p.m., meet at the entrance at the end of Upland north off Plymouth)* to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle and continue the restoration of the native habitat. *Dec. 12:* **Stapp Nature Area** *(1–4 p.m., meet at the park sign at the corner of Tuebingen & Huron Pkwy.)* to remove invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from this mature oak-hickory forest and vernal pond that's home to many amphibians and reptiles. *1–4 p.m., various locations. Free. 794–6627.*

★**"'Give Me Mud …': An Exploration of Color in Paintings": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of paintings in the museum's permanent collection. *1 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

"Once Upon an Ever After: A Fairy Tale Mash-Up": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre Junior Theatre. See 4 Friday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

★**"Crochet a Coral Reef: Hyperbolic Crochet": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Beth Battey shows adults and teens how to use a crochet technique developed by Cornell University mathematician Daina Taimina to make something that not only looks like a coral reef but also draws on the same underlying geometry. *1:30–5:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. EMU. The U-M women's gymnastics team, the defending Big Ten champion and a perennial national power, opens its season with an exhibition match. *2 p.m., Crisler Center. Ticket prices TBA. 764–0247.*

★**"Kerry Tales: December Lights and Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. *2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

Tour: Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's cheesemakers lead a tour of the facility and show how Zingerman's cheeses and gelato are made. Tastings. *2–3 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. $10. Reservations required. 929–0500.*

★**"Soviet Constructivist Posters: Branding the New Order": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of 1920s film posters by Soviet artists Vladimir and Georgii Stenberg who championed utilitarian art that promoted egalitarian ideals and was easily accessible to a wide audience. *2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★**"Wildlife Search!": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike on and off the trails to look for signs of animals. Wear boots or shoes that can get wet. *2–4 p.m., Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union St., north off Main west of M-52, Manchester. Free. stonerf@ewashtenaw.org; 971–6337, ext. 334.*

Contact Improv. *Dec. 6, 20, & 27.* All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. *2–4 p.m., SOMA, 218 N. Fourth Ave., ste. 204. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

Advanced English Country Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Don Theyken, Susie Lorand, Shirley Harden, and Ray Bantle lead festive dances to live music by Steve Schneider, Nadine Dyskant-Miller, and Lorand. For experienced dancers. *2–5:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). $10. jfuerst@juno.com, (248) 288–4737.*

★**"Sci-Tech": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Dec. 6, 13, & 20.* GameStart staff present hands-on introductions to various computer skills for kids in grades 3–8. *Dec. 6:* **"Roblox: Pirates."** Learn how to make a pirate map using Roblox Studio editor. *Dec. 13:* **"Unity Sidescroller."** Learn to use Unity programming language to make a sidescroller-style video game. *Dec. 20:* **"Minecraft Monsters."** Learn how to design creatures for this computer game. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Winter Watercolors": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL librarians show adults and teens in grade 6 & up how to paint a winter scene. *2–3 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Ukulele Party: Ann Arbor District Library.** Family-friendly performance, with lots of audience participation, by this acoustic band that includes ukuleles, banjos, guitar, and bass. *2–2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

AnnArborObserver.com

Ann Arbor online
Better than ever.

Hop to Adopt!

Ever thought of adding a rabbit to your family?
We can help! We have many rabbits waiting to be adopted into their forever homes!
www.rabbitsanctuary.org
Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary provides a safe haven to abandoned, abused, and neglected pet rabbits and other animals.
We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID #38-3241481 • MICS 21900

MPSA CRUSH
MICHIGAN PREMIER SOCCER ACADEMY

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL MPSA CRUSH
PLAYERS + PARENTS + STAFF

FUTURE STARS PROGRAM
- Fun introduction to soccer for 4 through 6 year olds
- Designed by early childhood educators

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS AND BOYS SPRING PROGRAM
- Top level program for high school players
- Clinics with national team staff coaches
- Clinics with college coaches
- Tournaments

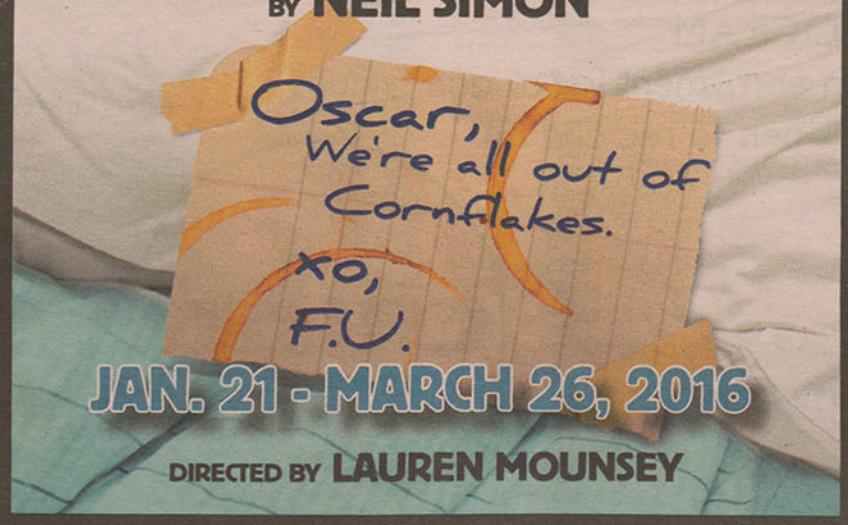
GUEST PLAYER PROGRAM
- Year-round open enrollment for all age groups
- Ann Arbor Cup open to rec and ed teams

CRUSH

for more information:
- (734) 476-5278
- mpsa.adm@gmail.com
- mpsacrush.com

Merry Christmas!
7th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Show
Local music, stories, & good cheer…
our Christmas Gift to the Community!
Saturday, December 12, 9am–2pm
Live from Briarwood Mall at Center Court
Replayed on Sat., December 19, 9am–2pm
1290 WLBY & live streamed on www.1290WLBY.com
On Air at 1290 WLBY
Online at www.lucyannlance.com
Produced by Lance & Erskine Communications
1290 WLBY AM
ANN ARBOR'S TALK STATION

Zion Lutheran CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP
5 pm Family Service
6:45 pm Musical Prelude to Worship
7:30 pm Traditional Service with Choirs
11 pm Candle Light
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
10 am
1501 W. Liberty • Ann Arbor
734.994.4455 • www.zlc-aa.org
Find us on Facebook @ Zion Lutheran Ann Arbor

the PurpleRose 25 years
THE ODD Couple
BY NEIL SIMON


JAN. 21 - MARCH 26, 2016
DIRECTED BY LAUREN MOUNSEY
734·433·7673 • PurpleRoseTheatre.org

Ann Arbor TubaChristmas. All invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in this annual outdoor performance, now in its 18th year, of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M Moore Bldg. (1100 Baits, off Broadway, North Campus) begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available ($16). Bring a lunch. Hats, gloves, and sunglasses recommended. *2–3 p.m., Farmers Market. $8. Free to spectators. 395–9544.*

"137th Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 5 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Randazzo Dance Company. See 5 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Ballet Chelsea. See 5 Saturday. 2 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 2 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"Site Specific: Public Art, the Community, and the Artist": UMMA.** U-M architecture and urban planning professors Robert Fishman and Mitch McEwen discuss the work of Detroit artist and activist Tyree Guyton, founder of the Heidelberg Project. *3–4 p.m., UMMA Stenn Family Gallery, 525 S. State. Free, but preregistration required via email to umma-program-registration@umich.edu (indicate date & program title in the subject line of the email). 764–0395.*

★**UMMA Tour: Washtenaw County Historical Society.** Guided tour of the U-M Museum of Art. *3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. Preregistration recommended. wchs-500@ameritech.net, 662–9092.*

★**"NaNoWriMo: I Wrote a Novel … Now What?": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local fiction writer **Karen Simpson** discusses the incident at a Klan rally in Ann Arbor that inspired *Act of Grace,* her award-winning debut novel about an African American high school senior who saves the life of a Klansman. Q&A. Signing. In conjunction with the end of National Novel Writing Month, a nonprofit promotion challenging teens and adults to write a 50,000-word novel by the end of November. *3–5 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

"Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus": Saline Area Players. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**"Family Christmas Carol Sing": Kempf House Museum.** All invited for caroling around Kempf House's 1877 Steinway grand piano, with accompanist Sue Dempsey. Songsheets & handbells provided. Holiday cookies & juice. *4–5 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994–4898.*

Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorale. The AAYC descant and concert choirs of talented young local singers perform works TBA. *4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $10 (tentative) at the door only. 996–4404.*

★**Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Orchestra.** This volunteer ensemble, conducted by Anthony Elliott, is joined by the Dexter High School Concert & Chamber Orchestras and the Washtenaw Community Orchestra Chorus for performances of Mozart's Regina Coeli in C Major, Vaughan-Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols,* Rutter's Magnificat, Leroy Anderson's *Christmas Festival,* the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah,* and more. *4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355–0725.*

38th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 4 Friday. 4 p.m.

"19th Annual Evening of Dinner & Jazz": African American Cultural & Historical Museum Fundraiser. Local bassist **Ron Brooks** leads a quartet of local musicians in a jazz program with guest vocalist **Betty Joplin,** a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Buffet dinner. Cash bar. *5–8 p.m., Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. Tickets $50 in advance by phone or email. aachmuseum@gmail.com, 971–7819.*

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance thought to be descended from the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse (off S. State across from the airport). Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 717–1569.*

"Ann Arbor Community Sing": Ann Arbor Senior Center. All invited to join this new monthly gathering to sing songs from the various branches of American folk music. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5. 794–6250.*

Ann Arbor Poetry Slam. *Dec. 6 & 20.* All poets invited to compete in a poetry slam judged by a panel randomly chosen from the audience. The program begins with a poetry open mike and (occasionally) a short set by a featured poet. *7–9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), Espresso Royale, 324 S. State. $5 suggested donation. A2poetry.com*

★**Michigan Chamber Players: U-M School of Music.** Performance by this ad hoc ensemble of music professors. Program: Couperin's "Sixième Concert" from *Les Goûts-Réunis* with bassoonist **Jeffrey Lyman** and cellist **Horacio Contreras Espinoza;** Weber's Clarinet Quintet with violinists **Danielle Belen** and **Stephen Shipps,** Violist **Yizhak Schotten,** clarinetist **Chad Burrow,** and Espinoza; and Brahms' Piano Trio no. 1 in B major with Belen, Espinoza, and pianist **Amy I-Lin Cheng.** *7 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"Vienna/Berlin—Before/After": Kerrytown Concert House. Pianist (and U-M opera coach) **Kathleen Kelly** and New York baritone **Michael Kelly** perform works by European Jewish composers who fled to America in the 1930s, including Korngold, Weill, Schoenberg, Berg, Krenek, Eisler, and others. The program focuses on works they composed after immigrating. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

★**"Music for Meditation": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff performs a program chant and hymn-based works by Hailstork, Distler, Bruhns, Bach, and Demessieux, interspersed with the apropos chants and hymns. *7:15–8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M. *Dec. 6 & 13.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including foxtrots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Rogel Ballroom. $5 ($10 includes lessons). 763–6984.*

The UNclub Open Mike: Emergent Arts. *Dec. 6, 13, & 20.* Performances by aspiring and experienced comics from former *Tonight Show* staff writer Chili Challis's comedy dojo. Emcee is Mark Sweetman. *8 p.m. (Dec. 6 & 13) & 9 p.m. (Dec. 20), The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. $5 suggested donation. 985–0875.*

7 MONDAY

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus.** *Every Mon., Sept. 14–Dec. 14.* All women who can carry a tune, read music, and harmonize with a group are invited to join this independent local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh. Free to visitors ($125 per semester dues for those who join). 665–9271.*

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Playgroups are also offered at 3 AADL branches: Malletts Creek (Tues. 10–11 a.m. & Thurs. 6:30–7:30 p.m.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard; Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.–noon), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.; and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30–11:30 a.m.) 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** *Every Mon.* All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Conjuring the Caribbean: How Sweet It Is": U-M Global Theatre & Ethnic Studies.** *Dec. 7–11.* This symposium kicks off with a panel discussion on **"Sugar, Diabetes, and People of Color"** (4 p.m.) and is highlighted by a keynote address on **"Postcards from Empire"** (6 p.m.) by acclaimed journalist **Gaiutra Bahadur,** who studies "coolies," Indian women who came to the Caribbean as indentured servants in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The symposium also includes various studio performances and installations (see tinyurl.com/conjuringcaribbean for full schedule). *4 p.m., U-M Hatcher Grad Library Gallery, enter from the Diag. Free. 615–3204.*

Michael Malis

New Detroit piano

Over the years Detroit has contributed mightily to the development of jazz. And although people from the city and surrounding areas have created original approaches to just about every instrument, from the polyrhythmic drumming of Elvin Jones to the highly individual tenor saxophone approaches of Wardell Grey, Lucky Thompson, Yusef Lateef, Donald Walden, or James Carter, the piano takes a special place in this tradition.

The modern history of Detroit keyboard artistry began with a generation of musicians born around 1930. While there are many others one could mention, Barry Harris and Tommy Flanagan are the two names that immediately come to mind, as well as Hank Jones, who was somewhat older. All three developed their talents in Detroit, moved to New York, and became internationally recognized masters of their instruments. But two women who never left the city also played a major role in this history: Gladys Wade Dillard, who instructed many of the youngsters who would grow up to be major pianists, and Bess Bonnier, who throughout her life was a major force in Motor City jazz as a teacher and performer.

This legacy lives on in the good hands of young pianists of today, best exemplified by Michael Malis. As a youngster he studied with Bonnier, then learned much from another Detroit piano master, Geri Allen, when she was teaching at U-M. Both of his teachers were versatile and sought inspiration from every kind of music. This kind of artistic openness, one that celebrates tradition as a floorboard for future creativity rather than as a closed nostalgic space, is key to understanding the imagination that propels Malis in his musical explorations.

Although still quite young, Malis has mastered an impressive repertoire, allowing him to play in traditional settings, accompanying singer Heather Black at the Ravens Club or working with the late Marcus Belgrave. On the other end of the spectrum, he has played completely improvised music at Edgefest. As a leader he works every week at Cliff Bell's club in Detroit playing modern jazz standards as well as his own compositions—he has written music for plays and films, and all the tunes on his debut recording come from his pen.

Malis has been touring widely in support of his new CD, *Lifted from the No of All Nothing,* and he will be at Kerrytown Concert House on December 11 with his regular trio members, bassist Ben Rolston and drummer Stephen Boegehold. This is finely honed original modern jazz, played by a trio that has developed empathy and mutual understanding. The music is emotional but not sentimental, with shifting elements of rhythmic propulsion that give the music much of its drama and drive it forward, no matter the tempo.

Malis never sounds like someone else and already displays his own musical personality, characterized by a seamless continuum between compositional and instrumental qualities. This is how the Detroit jazz piano tradition is evolving for our times.

—Piotr Michalowski

★**"Folded Page Snowflakes": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn to use recycled books and glitter to make a flurry of paper snowflakes. *7–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**Cookbook Club with Chef Nathan Brand: Literati Bookstore.** Local chef Nathan Brand leads a discussion of ***Sea and Smoke,*** chef Blaine Wetzel and journalist Joe Ray's travelogue that chronicles Wetzel's plucky ambition to create a world-class dining destination on Lummi Island, which has fewer than a thousand residents. *7 p.m., Literati, 124 E. Washington. Free. Reservations required at literaticookbookclub.splashthat.com. 585–5567.*

★**"Baking w/Sweeteners 101": Ann Arbor District Library.** People's Food Co-op head baker Keegan Rodgers discusses the history, chemistry, processing, and uses of sweeteners used in baking. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL 4th floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Dec. 7, 14, & 21.* Jigs, reels, and strathspeys. Usually with live music. All dances taught; beginners welcome. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the Barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5. 395–7782, 769–1052, 426–0241.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by viol teacher and early music specialist Janet Cannon. Music provided; bring your own music stand. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($35 annual dues for those who join). 274–9463.*

★**"By the Numbers": U-M Concert Band.** Courtney Snyder and Joshua Roach conduct this student ensemble and a **brass quintet** in works that have numbers in the title or have an interesting relationship to numbers. For instance, Williams' *Toccata Marziale* is in a consistent meter but feels anything but, and Schoenberg's Theme and Variations revolves around his favorite numbers, 7 and 12. The program also includes McTee's *Double Play,* Krenek's *Drei Lustic Marches,* Puckett's *Avelynn's Lullaby* (written for his daughter's first birthday), and Stephenson's *Dodecafecta. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Barry Aherne throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Come with a team (up to 6 people) or join one. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

8 TUESDAY

★**"A Grinch of a Story Time": Nicola's Books.** A Nicola's staffer reads Dr. Seuss's *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* to preschoolers. Also, a craft and a

Ann Arbor Artists' Collective
GIFT-FEST
SUNDAY • DECEMBER 6th • 10-4
PITTSFIELD GRANGE HALL • 3337 ANN ARBOR-SALINE RD.
ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Celebrate the season at
Matthaei Botanical Gardens

11/28-Jan. 4
Exhibit - The Gift of Nature: 10 Plants that Changed the World
Highlighting select conservatory plants and how they've benefited humans. Plus, seasonal flower display and themed and decorated idea trees. Open house Nov. 28 includes seasonal items in the Garden Store. Free admission.

11/28-Jan. 3, 2016
Art Exhibit: "Forest & Tree"
Over 60 works in a variety of media by the U-M and local communities inspired by the forest, the tree, or both.

11/28
Handspinners Holiday Fair
Handspun yarns; knitted, woven, and felted products; accessories; ornaments; books; craft tools; and more. Free admission.

12/6
Artists Market at Matthaei
A selection of art, jewelry, and high-quality crafts for sale in a variety of media from local, U-M, and regional artists. Free admission.

12/12
Annual Holiday Greens Market
A holiday greens workshop. Wreath/arrangement materials provided. $15/person. Register through Ann Arbor Garden Club: 734.255.7912.

For Kids & Families:

12/12
Wonders of Winter
Kids will create seasonal evergreen potpourri plus nature-themed paper crafts. $10 per child includes activities and materials. Registration requested: mbgna.umich.edu (select "Come Learn" then "Youth Programs").

12/19
A Visit with Father Christmas
The real thing, in town today only. Free admission. noon-2 pm.

MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
always in season!
Info & more:
mbgna.umich.edu
734.647.7600
1800 N. Dixboro Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Because Christmas
isn't "Merry" for everyone ...
Longest Night Worship
Special music with harp and flute
Sunday, December 20
Two services
5:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monteith Hall
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Ann Arbor | Michigan
1432 Washtenaw Avenue
734•662•4466
www.firstpresbyterian.org
Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, Pastor

Considering RENTING Your Home?
The Reinhart Rental Team
Your Home is Our Priority!
- Our Management Team Specializes in Rentals & Property Management.
- You will feel confident & secure knowing our experienced, reliable & preferred team is on the job.
- We work for YOU!
Questions? Call today!
734-669-4100
www.ReinhartRentals.com
ReinhartRENTALS.com

Feeling down? Need a jolt of energy?
You need BVE!
A fifty-year-old from Ann Arbor writes:
"A year ago, I could barely walk. I'm at a place now where I can run up to ten miles a day, swim for 45 minutes straight ... you name it. And I feel more alive than ever. What's my secret? Beta Vulgaris Extract (BVE)."
"Two spoonfuls of BVE crystals three times a day give me the jump I need to get me through my busy day. It's all natural, too, so I know it's good for me!"
To get your free sample of BVE, visit our web site at:
www.bve.com
today!

visit from the Grinch. *10 a.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

"What We Think, What We Know, and What We Do Not Know about False Criminal Convictions": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Talk by U-M law professor Samuel Gross, editor of the National Registry of Exonerations. Fourth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10–11:30 a.m., Rave Cinema, 4100 Carpenter. $65 (members, $45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $20 a year. $10 per lecture for members. 998–9351.*

★**Strings Showcase: U-M School of Music.** Outstanding string students perform solo and ensemble chamber works. *3 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**U-M Steel Pan Band: U-M School of Music.** Program TBA. *4:45 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** Club members discuss honeybee management, care, and honey production, as well as how to protect and enhance the local bee population. The program begins with an informal Q&A. *6:30–8:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. meghanom@gmail.com, 647–7600.*

"Oysters and Bubbles": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young is joined by Domaine Carneros (Napa, CA) winery winemaker TJ Evan to host a dinner pairing oyster dishes with Domaine Carneros' renowned sparkling wines, along with a pinot noir that is Young's favorite wine. *7–9:30 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson. $95 includes wine pairings. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

★**"Grief 101: What to Expect When Grieving": Ann Arbor District Library/Arbor Hospice Grief Support Services.** Talk by an Arbor Hospice representative. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Spirituality Book Club: Temple Beth Emeth.** *Dec. 8 & 10.* TBE cantor emerita Annie Rose leads a discussion of Harold Kushner's ***The Lord Is My Shepherd: Healing Wisdom of the 23rd Psalm.*** *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 8) & noon (Dec. 10), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. Preregistration required by emailing cantorannie@gmail.com. 665–4744.*

★**"Betting the Farm on a Drought": Sierra Club Book Club.** All invited to discuss Seamus McGraw's book about people who have dealt with a host of environmental challenges their forbears never encountered—even as they remain ideologically, politically, and even religiously disinclined to believe in man-made climate change. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

★**Piano Faculty Recital: U-M School of Music.** This concert celebrating the U-M's new Steinway concert grand piano features works by Schumann, Chopin, Liszt, Haydn, Bolcom, Copland, and Brehm. With pianists **Amy I-Lin Cheng, John Ellis, Arthur Greene, Christopher Harding, Louis Nagel,** and **Logan Skelton.** *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Celebrate the Season!": U-M Orpheus Singers.** Grad students conduct this 26-member choir of music majors in Mozart's sublime Agnus Dei and Charpentier's charming *Messe de Minuit pour Noel* based on French carols. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**Campus Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Andy Peck directs this ensemble of nonmusic majors in jazz works TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

"Get Wet with Juicy J": Delta Kappa Epsilon. Performance by Juicy J, a rap artist best known as one of the founding members of the Southern hip-hop group Three 6 Mafia. Opening acts TBA. Proceeds benefit charity: water, a nonprofit that provides clean drinking water to people in developing countries. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $50 & $65 in advance at eventbrite.com (search for Juicy J) and (if available) at the door. michtheater.org*

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. *Dec. 8–13.* Different new plays by Michigan playwrights each night. Tonight: an evening of 10-minute plays, including Jarrod Vanzo's ***In Dreams,*** Paige Vanzo's ***Can't Wait,*** Miranda Lopez's ***Rinse Cycle,*** Morgan Breon's ***Portrait of a Wise Woman,*** Matthew Tawney's ***Can You Hear the Love,*** and Anna Prushinskaya's ***One Mother's Answers.*** *8 p.m. (Tues. & Wed.), 9 p.m. (Thurs. & Fri.), 4 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Tickets (if available) are pay what you can afford, in advance at theatrenova.org and at the door. Members ($75 annual donation) receive priority access to all shows. 635–8450.*

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

9 WEDNESDAY

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. *Dec. 9 & 12.* All kids ages 1–5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a reading from Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman's ***Bear Snores On.*** After the reading, the kids learn about which animals are sleeping through the winter and which are staying here and staying active. *10–11 a.m. (Wed.) & 11 a.m.–noon (Sat.), Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 (members, $3) per child. 997–1533.*

★**"Identity Theft and Scams Aimed at Older Adults: How to Protect Yourself and Use Local Law Enforcement": U-M Turner Senior Wellness Program.** Talk by Michigan Attorney General Office representative Betsy Davenport and Ann Arbor police sergeant Tom Hickey. *10 a.m.–noon, Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. Preregistration recommended. 998–9353.*

★**Brown Bag Organ Recital: U-M School of Music.** Performance by St. Andrew's Episcopal Church organist **Deborah Friauff.** Bring a bag lunch, if you wish; food available at the Crossroads Café. *12:15–12:45 p.m., U-M School of Public Health Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 615–3204.*

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**"Making a New Metropolis in Seoul: 'The Age of 86–88' as a Catalyst of Gangnaminization": U-M Nam Center for Korean Studies.** Kwangwoon University humanities professor Baek Yung Kim discusses the influences of the 1988 Seoul Olympic games on the development of the Gangnam area of Seoul. *4 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764–1825.*

Family Hanukkah Party, Magic Show, & Latke Dinner: Beth Israel Congregation. A community candle-lighting ceremony and a magic show by popular, award-winning Ann Arbor magician **Jeff Wawrzaszek.** Also, a latke and fish stick dinner. *6–8 p.m., Beth Israel, 2000 Washtenaw. $8 (kids, free). Reservations required via phone or email. office@bethisrael-aa.org, 665–9897.*

"Ari's Best of 2015": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Dec. 9, 16 & 21.* Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzweig discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products. An extremely popular annual event, which usually sells out. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Zingerman's Events on 4th, Fourth Ave. just south of Kingsley. $45 in advance and (if available) at the door. 663–3400.*

★**"Copper Wire Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local crafter Beth Battey shows teens in grades 6–12 how to make simple wire-wrapped jewelry using copper wire. Supplies provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Mixed-bag Crafting Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to try out one of a hodgepodge of craft projects. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who offers a talk on a variety of spiritual practices. Q&A. Also, socializing. *7–9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3820 Packard, ste. 280. Free, but donations are accepted. 477–5848.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss their poetry or short stories. Bring about 6 copies of your work to share. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**University Symphony Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Kenneth Kiesler conducts this ensemble of music majors in the American premiere of Vitezslava Kapralova's colorful *Suite en Miniature* and her *Prélude de Noël,* as well as Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition.* Also, U-M Concerto Competition winner **Andreas Oeste** plays Christopher Rouse's scintillating Oboe Concerto. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Opera Studio Scenes": U-M School of Music.** *Dec. 9 & 11.* Kay Castaldo directs U-M opera grad students in dramatic, romantic, and hilarious scenes from operas TBA. *8 p.m. (Dec. 9) & 5:30 p.m. (Dec. 11), U-M School of Music Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 8 Tuesday. Tonight: ***Bird,*** Grand Rapids playwright Kristin Andrea Hanratty's coming-of-age drama about an inner city boy trying to find an identity outside the watchful eye of his grandmother. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

10 THURSDAY

★**"Sensation Stations": Ann Arbor District Library.** All toddlers ages 18 months–3 years invited to drop in to engage their senses by scooping, pouring, squeezing, and shaking a variety of materials. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Exhibitions, the Machinery of Secularization, and the Contact Zones of Display": U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** Frankel Institute fellow Jeffrey Abt discusses two periods in which Jews displayed their ritual objects in public, including the late 1800s in Europe and the early 1900s in the U.S. *12:15 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

Ikebana International Ann Arbor Chapter. Detroit Ikebana member Janet Knowlton leads a session of this Japanese art of flower arranging. Today's emphasis is on the Ichiyo style using evergreen boughs to create a holiday arrangement. *1 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens (tentative), 1800 N. Dixboro. $15 (members, $8) materials fee; metered parking. Preregistration required. 327–6605.*

★**"Tea Party": International Neighbors.** All area women invited to a festive tea party with tables decorated in the style of different countries. Supplies provided. Refreshments. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Also, a chance to sign up for club activity groups, including help with English. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 930–9962.*

★**The Concordia University Wind and String Ensembles: Concordia University.** William Perrine conducts these student ensembles in works by composer-in-residence Kevin Walcyzk, including the Michigan premiere of "Winter Ricercar" and the world premiere of "Eloi, Eloi." Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by a talk on the program with Walcyzk. *4 p.m., Concordia University Kreft Center Black Box Theater, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7537.*

★**"Opera Studio Scenes": U-M School of Music.** U-M music professor Robert Swedberg directs U-M opera undergrad (5:30 p.m.) and graduate (8 p.m.) students in dramatic, romantic, and hilarious scenes from operas TBA. *5:30 & 8 p.m., U-M School of Music Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

"One Candle for Tzedakah": Jewish Community Center. A family-oriented event with traditional Hanukkah foods, games, and a performance by the acclaimed local children's theater troupe Wild Swan Theater. All encouraged to bring an unwrapped gift to donate to Toys for Tots. *6–8 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $20) in advance, $15 (family, $25) at the door. 971–0990.*

"Holiday Ales": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen festive holiday ales spiced with fruit, herbs, and spices. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance, $30 (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

"Jolly Cocktails": Zingerman's Cornman Farms. *Dec. 10 & 11.* Zingerman's staff discuss the use of warm winter spices in drinks throughout American history, and holiday drinking traditions in the U.S. and around the world and show how to prepare 3 holiday cocktails. Tastings. With appetizers. Recipes available. *7–9:30 p.m. Cornman Farms, 8540 Island Lake Rd., Dexter. $65. Reservations required. 619–8100.*

★**"Albert Kahn: Designing Detroit & the University of Michigan": Ann Arbor District Library.** Slide-illustrated talk by *Detroit News* art critic Michael Hodges. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Buzzed Bee: A Grown-Up Spelling Bee": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults invited to compete in an old-fashioned spelling bee. *7–9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m.), Live, 102 S. First. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Story Night": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild members host a storytelling program. Audience members are encouraged to bring a 5-minute story to tell. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Open Mike & Share with Tung Hui-Hu": Bookbound.** Reading by this award-winning U-M poetry professor who has a "contained surreal style that deftly shapes a philosophical argument," according to a *Los Angeles Times* review. The program begins with an open mike for poets, who are welcome to read their own work or a favorite poem by another writer. *7 p.m., Bookbound, 1729 Plymouth, Courtyard Shops. Free. 369–4345.*

★**All Choir Concert: Greenhills School.** Performances by Middle and Upper School students. *7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. Free. 205–4004.*

★**U-M Residential College Singers.** RC students present a varied program of choral music from Mozart and Mendelssohn to Shakespearean madrigals, folk songs, and gospel. *7 p.m., RC Keene Theater, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

"The Nutcracker": New York City Ballet (Fathom Events). See 5 Saturday. 7 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Friday. 7 p.m.

★**"The Light in the Piazza": U-M Musical Theatre Department.** *Dec. 10–13.* U-M musical theatre professor Brian Hill directs U-M musical theatre majors in Craig Lucas and Adam Guettel's 2003 musical, set in Tuscany in 1953, about an American tourist who anxiously tries to thwart her daughter's budding romance with a handsome Florentine. The passionate, richly melodic score draws on Neoromantic classical and opera music. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio One, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Tickets $22 & $28 (students, $12) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"Henry IV, Part 1": U-M Theatre Department. *Dec. 10–13.* U-M theater professors Priscilla Lindsay and Robert Najarian direct U-M drama students in Shakespeare's popular historical play about a king who must defend the crown he stole, and his son, Prince Hal, who must choose between his duty and his loyalty to his old friend Falstaff. *7:30 p.m. (Thurs.), 8 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), & 2 p.m. (Sun.), Power Center. Tickets $22 & $28 (students, $12) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Wind Chamber Music Recital: U-M School of Music.** Program TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"The Complete Sonatas of Beethoven for Violin and Piano": U-M School of Music.** *Dec. 10 & 12 (different programs).* Students of Aaron Berofsky perform all 10 of Beethoven's sonatas for violin and piano over the course of 2 evenings. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

★**"Mad About Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House.** See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

★**Jazz Lab Ensemble & Jazz Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** These student ensembles are joined by noted contemporary jazz drummer **Carl Allen** in works by Steve Owen, Ornette Coleman, Dennis Wilson, and others. *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

"Sonder": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. *Dec. 10–12.* An evening of original choreography by U-M dance majors **Meri Bobber, Kula Batahgan, Riley O'Donnell,** and **Irene Vandenberghe.** *8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. (off Observatory). $7 at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m. 763–5460, 763–5461.*

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. *Dec. 10–13.* This accomplished local town-and-gown company performs Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta spoofing the excesses and moral libertinism of the Pre-Raphaelite movement that swept England in the 1870s. The plot concerns one Reginald Bunthorne, a pretentious aesthete who affects a love of poetry and art simply to impress the local maidens. He succeeds in winning the admiration of all except the refreshingly unsophisticated milkmaid Patience—who happens to be the only woman he's interested in. Patience remains faithful to her childhood sweetheart, Archibald Grosvenor, who woos her (and irritates Bunthorne) with his sincere, properly Victorian idyllic verses. Meanwhile the local dragoons are dismayed that their girlfriends all pine for Bunthorne. The farce is happily resolved in the end, and all finally get what they deserve. Patience is known mainly for its extravagant comic energy and many memorable tunes, including "The Soldiers of Our Queen" and "In a Doleful Train." Stars Mitchell Gillett, Imani Mchunu, and Justin Burgess. *8 p.m. (Dec. 10–12) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 12 & 13), Lydia Mendelssohn Theater, 911 North*

Friends at Front Porch
Holiday Sale
Saturday, Dec. 12
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Front Porch
Weaving Studio
1219 Traver Street
Ann Arbor River District

An eclectic offering of fine craft/art:
Handwovens • Yarn • Art Tiles • Jewelry • Paper • Woodcraft

Edwards, Ellis, Armstrong & Company
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

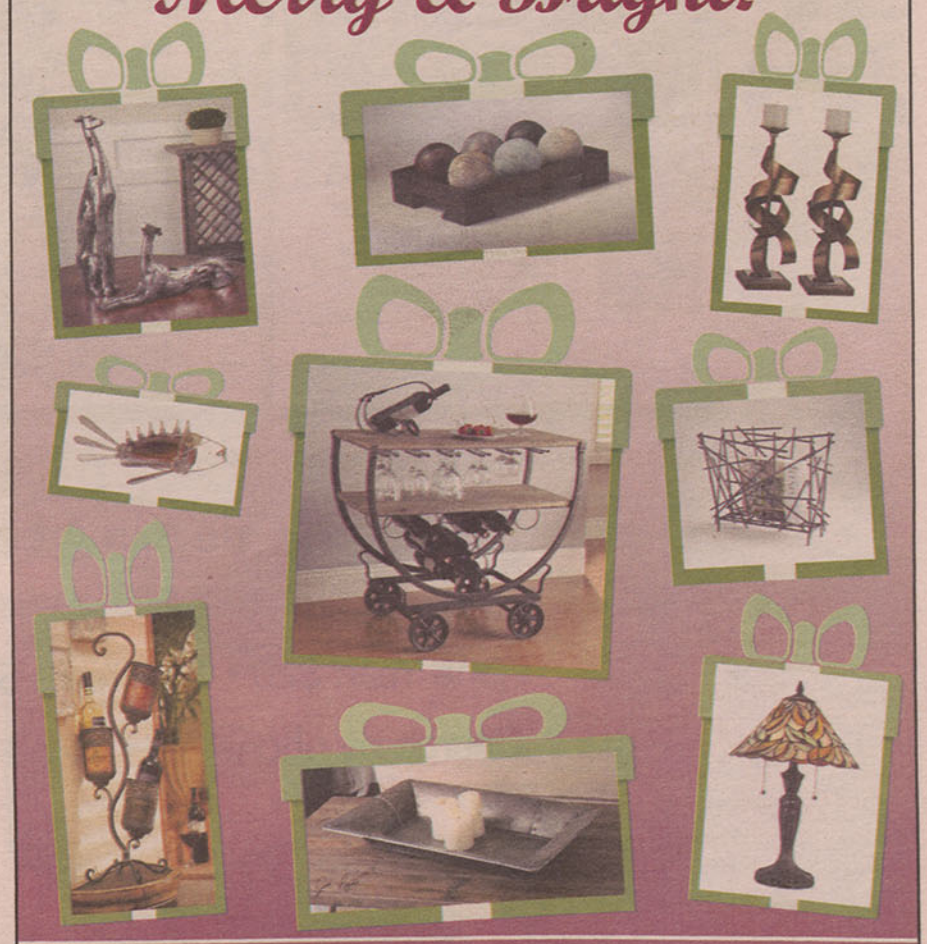
OVER 15 CPAs PROVIDING THE FOLLOWING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SINCE 1972:

- Tax Preparation & Planning
- Accounting & Bookkeeping
- Fraud Examinations
- Financial Planning
- Audits, Reviews & Compilations

Edwards, Ellis, Armstrong & Company
206 S. Fourth Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
(734) 662-0277

WWW.EEACPAS.COM

Merry & Bright!



gross electric
Your Lighting & Hardware Design Professionals
2232 S. Industrial Hwy.
734-665-8676
Hours: M-F 9-6; Sat 9-5
Closed Sun
www.grosselectric.com

Merry Christmas!

7th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Show

Local music, stories, & good cheer…
our Christmas Gift to the Community!

Saturday, December 12, 9am–2pm
Live from Briarwood Mall at Center Court
Replayed on Sat., December 19, 9am–2pm
1290 WLBY & live streamed on www.1290WLBY.com

On Air at 1290 WLBY
Online at www.lucyannlance.com
Produced by Lance & Erskine Communications

1290 WLBY AM
ANN ARBOR'S TALK STATION

Honeymoon Hauling

Locally Owned and Operated for 25 years

Our Family Wishes you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Hard Working & Dependable!
Trash and Appliance Removal
(734) 761–1980

Give the Best of Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor Observer
city guide
2015-2016
NEIGHBORHOODS • CHILDREN • COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
GOVERNMENT • HEALTH CARE • PARKING & TRANSPORTATION
ENTERTAINMENT • RESTAURANTS • RECREATION • LIBRARIES
MUSEUMS & GALLERIES • RELIGION • GROUPS • CLUBS
COMMUNITY SERVICES • EMERGENCY SERVICES

A gift subscription to the Ann Arbor Observer!

We'll send a gift card, and your family and friends will think of you each time a new issue arrives.

One Year: $20 • Two Years $30

Charge by phone: 734.769.3175

2390 Winewood | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103 | 734.769.3175
AnnArborObserver.com

University. Tickets $20 (seniors, $18; students, $10) in advance at umgasspatience.brownpapertickets.com and at the door. umgass@umich.edu

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Rodney Laney: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 10–12.* New Jersey–bred stand-up comic and actor who specializes in wry observational humor about assorted features of contemporary life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $13 (Thurs.) & $16 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 8 Tuesday. Tonight: ***Lisandra,*** Cara Beth Heath's drama about an overstressed high school senior and a jaded high school teacher who inadvertently help each other come to understandings about their lives and make choices about their futures. 9 p.m.

11 FRIDAY

★"Between States and Industry: The Nippon Foundation and the Safety of the Malacca Strait": U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. Lecture by University of Delaware political science and international relations professor Alice Ba. *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB/International Institute, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0352.*

★"The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and Its Legacy: The Perils of Writing the Painful Past": U-M Residential College. U-M history professor Heather Ann Thompson discusses her new book. *3:30 p.m., 1405 East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763–0176.*

Annual Holiday Sale: Yourist Studio Gallery. *Dec. 11–13.* Show and sale of works by local ceramics artists. Tonight is a **gala preview** with refreshments. *5–8 p.m. (Dec. 11), 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 11 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 13), Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662–4914.*

★"Opera Studio Scenes": U-M School of Music. See 9 Wednesday. 5:30 p.m.

"Potluck & Skillshare": Ann Arbor Reskilling. Potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass and your own washable plate, cup, and fork), followed by presentations on **"Milkweeds and Monarchs"** by Native Plant Nursery representative Amanda Klain and **"Leather Working and Shoe Repair"** by Robert Hay (choose one). *6–8:30 p.m., Northside Community Center, 809 Taylor (east off Pontiac Tr.). $5 suggested donation (plus $5 materials fee for the leather working demo). Preregistration recommended for the demos: milkweedskillshare.eventbrite.com & shoerepair.eventbrite.com. a2reskilling@gmail.com*

★"Always Lost: A Meditation on War": Ann Arbor District Library. The opening reception for this nationally touring exhibit on the individual and collective costs of war (see Galleries) features a screening of a short film (6:45 p.m.) on the making of the exhibit, followed at 7 p.m. by a processional by a U-M ROTC Color Guard with members of the local VFW, and a chance to view the exhibit. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★Student String Quartet Recital: U-M School of Music. String quartets perform works by various composers. *7 p.m., U-M Stearns Bldg. Cady Room, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

U-M Kopitonez. This a cappella ensemble performs a mix of Western and Asian pop. *7 p.m., 1323 East Hall, 530 Church. Tickets $7 (tentative). kopiboard@umich.edu*

"3rd Annual Neo Nutcracker": WCC. *Dec. 11 & 12.* WCC students and members of several local dance groups perform WCC alum Christine Sampier's contemporary take on Tchaikovsky's classic Christmas ballet. Sampier's version includes ballet, tap, jazz, hip-hop, modern, and ballroom dance styles. *7 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $5 suggested donation. 677–5090.*

"A Christmas Story: The Musical": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. *Dec. 11 & 12.* This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7–18 performs Benj Pasek and Justin Paul's musical based on the classic Christmas film about a kid in 1940s Indiana who dreams of getting a Red Ryder BB Gun for Christmas. *7 p.m., Saline Middle School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets $8 in advance at Busch's in Saline, Saline Community Education, and Rhythm Dance Crew Studio; $10 at the door. salinevarsityblues.org, 546–0264.*

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Friday. 7 p.m.

★Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of former Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America board member Dwight Ebaugh's lecture "Between Death and Rebirth." Familiarity with Rudolf Steiner's basic ideas is helpful. *7:30–9 p.m., location TBA. Free. 944–4903.*

★Percussion Studio Recital: U-M School of Music. Students of Joseph Gramley and Jonathan Ovalle perform solo and chamber works TBA. Also, a performance by the **iMpact! Youth Percussion Ensemble.** *7:30 p.m., U-M Moore Bldg. Hankinson Rehearsal Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

U-M Dicks & Janes. This a cappella ensemble features an eclectic repertoire from "Over the Rainbow" to Bjork's "Who Is It" to Debussy's *Clair de Lune. 7:30 p.m., Lorch Hall, 611 Tappan. Cost TBA. dicksandjanes@umich.edu*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

4th Annual Holiday Pops Concert: Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is joined by the **Ann Arbor Youth Chorale,** the **Boychoir of Ann Arbor,** the men's chorus **Measure for Measure,** and choirs from Greenhills School and Skyline High School in a program of seasonal music. The program finale is "Let There Be Peace on Earth." *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $10–$47 in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, ste. 470), at a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

Michael Malis Trio: Kerrytown Concert House. *See review, p. 91.* Detroit pianist Malis leads his trio in works from their new album, *Lifted from the No of All Nothing,* a collection of improv-based works developed in their weekly gig at Cliff Bell's in Detroit. With bassist Ben Rolston and drummer Stephen Boegehold. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Sonder": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★"The Light in the Piazza": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Henry IV, Part 1": U-M Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Rodney Laney: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 8 Tuesday. Tonight: ***Effect of Happiness,*** Linda Ramsay-Detherage's comedy, set on a luxury yacht, about a one-percenter who begins behaving hilariously out of character when he receives a controversial treatment for his rare and life-threatening disease. 9 p.m.

12 SATURDAY

★Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum. *Dec. 12 & 19.* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Tools provided, or bring your own. *Note:* Kids age 15 & under must be accompanied by an adult. Youth ages 16–18 must submit a permission form. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 12), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 19), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free (metered parking at Matthaei). Preregistration required by phone or email. tgriffit@umich.edu, 647–8528.*

★"Junior Naturalist: Winter Survival": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance shows kids ages 8–12 how to stay warm and comfortable outdoors in the winter, including how to build a fire. Also, hot drinks. *9 a.m.–noon, County Farm Park Medford Rd. lot. Free, but preregistration required. severances@ewashtenaw.org; 971–6337, ext. 335.*

Christmas Bake Sale: St. Vladimir Russian Orthodox Church. Sale of traditional Russian and American holiday sweets and other favorites from around the world. Also, sale of gifts and souvenirs from Russia and Ukraine. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., St. Vladimir, 9900 Jackson Rd., Dexter. Free admission. stvladimiraami.org*

"5th Annual Friends at the Front Porch Holiday Sale." Michigan artists and crafters show and sell handwoven textiles, jewelry, art tiles, paper, and wood. *9 a.m.–5 p.m., Front Porch Textile Studio, 1219 Traver. Free admission. 662–7134.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Dec. 12 & 13.* About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Sun.), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

7th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show. Popular local radio personality Lucy Ann Lance hosts a live broadcast of her old-fashioned radio variety show with musical performances, stories, local celebrities, and more. Refreshments. The show is broadcast on 1290 WLBY and 1290WLBY.com. *9 a.m.–2 p.m., Briarwood Mall. Free. 1290WLBY.com, 717–2182.*

"Critters Up Close!": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 12 & 13.* Leslie Science and Nature Center staff show live animals. Also, animal-oriented hands-on activities. This month's featured critters are **hawks and falcons.** *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 1–4 p.m. (Dec. 13), AAHOM Michigan Nature Gallery, 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

"Wonders of Winter Kids Program": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to make seasonal potpourri and evergreen boughs to take home. Also, nature-themed paper crafts. In conjunction with the current holiday exhibit, *The Gift of Nature. 10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. $10 materials fee; metered parking. Preregistration requested. 647–7600.*

Holiday Greens Workshop: Ann Arbor Garden Club. Club member Denise Looker shows how to make a holiday wreath or arrangement of holiday greens. Followed by a potluck brunch (bring a dish to pass). *10 a.m.–noon, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $15 materials fee; metered parking. Reservations recommended. 255–7912.*

The Holiday Art Fair: The Guild of Artists & Artisans. *Dec. 12 & 13.* Show and sale of works by more than 100 jury-selected artists. Also, a holiday luminary art activity for kids and live entertainment. *10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 11 a.m.–5 p.m. (Dec. 13), EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt (north off Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 12 & under, free). info@theguild.org, 662–3382.*

Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library. *Dec. 12 & 13.* With used puzzles and games, along with gift-quality books and books on CD. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & 1–4 p.m. (Sun.), AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 302–7774.*

★"Recycled Gift Wraps": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department. All invited to make recycled wrapping, gift boxes, and bows to take home. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center; closed-toed shoes and long pants required for the tour. *10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. Preregistration required for groups of 5 or more. 369–9272.*

★"Miss Merry Christmas Beauty Pageant": Briarwood/Sunburst Beauty Pageants. Girls and women from infants to age 27 and boys from infants to age 3 are judged on beauty, overall appearance, and personality. *11 a.m., Briarwood center court stage. Free to spectators. $45–$115 to participate (preregistration required at sunburstbeauty.com). 769–9610.*

The Tiny Expo: Ann Arbor District Library. Show and sale of holiday gifts by local artists and crafters. Also, all ages invited to drop by the youth story corner to make a **Tiny Expo snowglobe.** *11 a.m.–5:30 p.m., AADL lobby, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free admission. 327–4555.*

"Art on Adare." *Dec. 12 & 13.* A holiday show and sale of jewelry by Idelle Hammond-Sass, glass by Annette Baron, and fiber art by Carol Furtado. *Noon–5 p.m., 1510 Kearney at Adare (off Melrose via Tuomy from Washtenaw). Free admission. 741–4441.*

9th Annual Holiday Studio Sale. *Dec. 12 & 13.* Show and sale of works by 6 local artists, including art books by Jean Buescher Bartlett, jewelry by Brittany Campbell, ceramics by John Leyland, silk and wool wearables and fiber art by Michele Montour, porcelain pottery and lamps by Kate Tremel, and ceramics and paintings by Benjamin Teague. Also, a sale of hand-crafted chocolates by Sweet Gem Confections candy maker Nancy Biehn. *Noon–5 p.m., Tremel residence, 627 Gott St. (off Miller). Free admission. 327–3727.*

"The Magic Flute": Metropolitan Opera (Fathom Events). Broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera's 2006 production of Mozart's beloved "opera fantaisie." At once a love story, a whimsical comedy, and an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, The Magic Flute is above all an unsurpassed celebration, by turns jubilant and unsettlingly haunting, of the power of music. *12:55 p.m., Quality 16, 3686 Jackson. $18 (discounts for seniors & kids) in advance at fathomevents.com/event/met1516-the-magic-flute-encore and at the door. 623–7469.*

Join us for Tom Hanks' BIGgest movie...

BIG

Presented by Temple Beth Emeth

Friday, December 25

Michigan Theater | Doors open at 10 am

Advance purchase: $7/ticket

(for sale until Dec. 22 at www.templebethemeth.org)

At the door: $7 for children under 12,

$10 for adults, children under 2 are free

Regular concessions for sale.

VICTORY LANE QUICK OIL CHANGE®

CURRENT SPECIAL

FUEL SAVING PACKAGE

Ann Arbor
2185 Stadium Blvd
734-996-9700
*Open Sunday

Chelsea
920 S. Main Street
734-475-6377

Mon-Fri 8-7
Sat 8-5 *Sun 10-4

FUEL SAVER PACKAGE

Save Over $34

Package Includes:
•Complete Full Service Oil Change (check & fill fluids along with a 20-point check)
•Intake System Cleaning (cleans fuel injectors and valves free of build up)
•Replace Fuel Filter (most manufacturers recommend changing every two years)

$119.99 most cars

WORSHIP WITH US!

Calvary United Methodist Church

1415 Miller Ave. Ann Arbor, 48103

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Now booking for your spring/summer event

Contact Pastor Andy Lee at Calvary1415@att.net

Worship Joyfully, Grow in Christ, Serve in Love • a2Calvary.org

GO Wireless...

Go Invisalign!!

Have you been told Invisalign is not right for you, that your treatment is too difficult for Invisalign?

Experience counts! When others say no, we can say **YES**!

- 100% digital scan of your teeth with I-Tero, no impressions needed!
- AcceleDent technology, get your teeth straight faster!
- Complimentary consultation
- Interest free financing available

Dr. Eric W. Brust Dr. Bradley C. Stieper

We take pride in creating beautiful smiles in a uniquely fun and friendly environment!

Eric W. BRUST Orthodontics

Since 1993

2355 W Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor

(734) 662-7200

www.DrBrustOrtho.com

HOUR TOPDENTISTS DETROIT

INVISALIGN 2015 TOP 1% PROVIDER

★**"Trader Joe's Holiday Tasting": Ann Arbor District Library.** Trader Joe's staff introduce (with taste samples) a variety of appetizers and elegant hors d'oeuvres for holiday parties. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Endzone: The Rise, Fall, and Return of Michigan Football": Barnes & Noble.** Best-selling local sportswriter **John U. Bacon,** author of *Fourth and Long: The Fight for the Soul of College Football,* discusses his new book. *1 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

"Ariel & Zoey & Eli": Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series. The singing trio of local 17-year-old twins Ariel and Zoey Engelbert and their 14-year-old brother Eli, hosts of the nationally syndicated TV shows *Ariel & Zoey & Eli Too* and *Steal the Show,* present a family-oriented program of their favorite songs, along with some surprise guests and a festive holiday sing-along. *1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 (MTF members, $10) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745–3000.*

★**"Cute Clay Charms": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for kids in grades K–5. *2–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Glitter Candles": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"LiveCode: Everyone Can Create Apps": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn how to program apps. *2–3:45 p.m., AADL training center, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Holiday Party: Aunt Agatha's.** Mystery writers **Jane Cleland** *(Ornaments of Death)* and **D.E. Ireland** *(Move Your Blooming Corpse)* are on hand to sign copies of their latest books. Treats. *2 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"Raptor Feeding": Leslie Science & Nature Center.** *Every Sat.* LSNC volunteers feed and answer questions about the center's red-tailed hawk, peregrine falcon, and other resident raptors, who may come out of their enclosures to eat. *3–4 p.m. Leslie Science & Nature Center, 1831 Traver Rd. Free. 997–1553.*

Youth Ensembles Concert: Community Music School of Ann Arbor. Program TBA. *3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport Rd. $5. 213–2000.*

51st Annual Community *Messiah* Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 40 to 50 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 2:30 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. *3 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. $5 suggested donation to help defray cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Meg Gower at megower@umich.edu or 433–0150.*

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 8–18 in its 28th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." The featured work is Britten's *Ceremony of Carols,* a suite of mostly medieval carols for treble voices and harp. Also, "No sad thought His soul affright" from Vaughan Williams' cantata *Hodie,* the traditional "Quem pastores laudavere" with 4 solo boy sopranos singing from the 4 corners of the sanctuary, the traditional Spanish carol "Riu, riu, chiu" sung by the Young Men's Ensemble (older boys with changed voices), and William Mathias's exuberant setting of "A Babe Is Born." Organist is Aaron Tan, and harpist is Brittany DeYoung. Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This popular annual concert usually sells out. *3 & 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Tickets $15 (students & seniors, $10; youths 17 & under, $5) in advance at aaboychoir.org and at the door. 663–5377.*

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 3 p.m.

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 8 Tuesday. Today: veteran Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney's one-woman show ***Katherine,*** a series of tragicomic monologues that follows 5 generations of mothers and daughters, from 1905 rural Georgia to 2017 suburban Detroit, as each faces her own personal crisis. 4 p.m.

★"Holiday Hustle": Running Fit. Competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, and a 1-mile fun run. *4:15 p.m., Monument Park, downtown Dexter. 5-km run: $34 before Dec. 10 & $40 race weekend. Fun Run: $29 before Dec. 10 & $35 race weekend for adults, $19 before Dec. 10 and $25 race weekend for age 17 & under. Preregistration available at runholiday5k.com. 426–1175.*

★"Opera Studio Scenes": U-M School of Music. *Dec. 12 & 13.* Kay Castaldo directs U-M opera undergrads in dramatic, romantic, and hilarious scenes from Mozart's ***Le Nozze di Figaro*** and ***The Magic Flute,*** and other operas. *5 p.m. (Dec. 12) & 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 13), U-M School of Music Moore Bldg. McIntosh Theatre, 2005 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–2538.*

★"Composing in the Moment, Dancing on the Fly": U-M Dance Department. Performances by students in U-M dance professor Amy Chavasse's improvisation class. *5 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. (off Observatory). Free. 763–5460.*

★Bluegrass Gospel Jam Session. Mark and Claudia Aills are joined by other local string musicians for a program of bluegrass and country gospel tunes. *6–8:30 p.m., Dexter Senior Center, 7720 Ann Arbor St., Dexter. Free, but donations accepted for Dexter Senior Center. 878–1078.*

★"Annual Holiday Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan. All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. *6:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"A Christmas Celebration": First United Methodist Church. Ann Marie Koukios conducts the Michigan Sinfonietta and the FUMC choirs & vocal staff in a festive family Christmas Concert featuring a seasonal repertoire ranging from Vaughan Williams' "Hodie" and Bach's B minor Mass to Robert Shaw's *Many Moods of Christmas,* along with an audience carol sing. Reception follows. *7 p.m., FUMC, 120 S. State. $15 (students, $8) suggested donation. Kids 12 & under welcome for free. 662–4536.*

U-M Sopranos. This all-female a cappella ensemble performs pop songs such as James Blake's "Retrograde," Britney Spears' "Toxic," Mumford and Sons' "Timshel," and Kanye West's "Lost in the World." *7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium A. $7 (students, $5). cgsavard@umich.edu*

"3rd Annual Neo Nutcracker": WCC. See 11 Friday. 7 p.m.

"A Christmas Story: The Musical": Saline Varsity Blues Holiday Show. See 11 Friday. 7 p.m.

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Friday. 7 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"A Grand Ball in Wonderland": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy Victorian Ball. Various 19th-century dances, including the Lobster Quadrille, in an atmosphere that evokes Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.* Attendees encouraged to come in 19th-century attire or as a character from the book. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance lessons. *7:45–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $30 (includes lessons). Preregistration requested at vintagedance.com. 769–0041.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $10. 822–2120.*

George Shirley Scholarship Fundraiser: Kerrytown Concert House. Countertenor **Darryl Taylor,** soprano **Louise Toppin,** pianist **Kathryn Goodson,** and the popular local chorus **Our Own Thing Chorale** perform works TBA. Proceeds benefit the George Shirley Scholarship for U-M voice students. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $25 (students, $10) general admission. Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com. 769–2999.*

★U-M Gamelan Ensemble & Javanese Dance Performance: U-M School of Music. Java (Indonesia) musician **Santosa Soewarlan** leads the ensemble and student dancers in a performance of Javanese traditional music and dance. Javanese dance uses elegant and refined movements to depict ancient stories. The gamelan is an assembly of 50 gongs and metallophones, drums, strings, flutes, xylophone, and singers. The music is a gorgeous concatenation of nonharmonic melodies built on cycles marked by the largest gong and subdivided by the other instruments. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

Bliss: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. The local trio of singer-songwriter Laura Massaro, guitarist Craig Brann, and percussionist Don Allen performs an eclectic mix of pop, folk, and world music, including originals, covers, and improvisations. Cookies and tea & hot chocolate. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $8 ($15 for 2). 665–0409.*

Jason Dennie Trio: Mangiamo Italian Grill Acoustic Routes Concert. Acoustic trio led by singer-songwriter Dennie, a highly regarded local acoustic fingerstyle guitarist and mandolinist who plays an eclectic brand of folk-based music in the tradition of John Fahey, Leo Kottke, and Michael Hedges. *8 p.m., Mangiamo, 107 W. Michigan Ave., Saline. $15 by reservation and at the door. Preferred seating for dinner customers. 429–0060.*

★"The Complete Sonatas of Beethoven for Violin and Piano": U-M School of Music. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Sonder": U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 10 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

★"The Light in the Piazza": U-M Musical Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Henry IV, Part 1": U-M Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Rodney Laney: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 10 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

13 SUNDAY

"Homegrown at the Cobblestone": CS2 Productions. Show and sale of handmade arts and crafts by local artists. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. (248) 875–7226.*

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. Photos with Santa available for $2, or bring your own camera. *10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $6 per child (adults, $3; kids under age 1, free). Preregistration required. $5 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. Robinsongs for Kids director Robin Robinson presents a program of music and movement for babies through 5-year-olds, accompanied by an adult. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

U-M Detroit Observatory. Half-hour docent-guided tours of photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. *1–4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. $5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763–3482.*

★"Engaging with Art": UMMA. *Dec. 13 & 20.* Docents lead tours of the UMMA collection, with themes based on their own interests. *1–2 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. *1–4 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678–7549, 761–1451.*

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to recorded holiday music. Free candy canes. *1–2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

★Drop-in Gallery Tour: U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology. Docent-led tour of the galleries. *2 p.m., Kelsey Museum Upjohn Wing entrance on Maynard. Free. 764–9304.*

★"The Art of Tyree Guyton": UMMA. *See review, p. 98.* Docent-led tour of the current exhibit that cel-

ARBOR SPRINGS WATER COMPANY
Locally owned since 1926
1440 Plymouth Rd. • Ann Arbor
CALL FOR DELIVERY 734-668-8270
arborspringswater.com

Natural Artesian Water
•
Purified Water
•
Hot & Cold Coolers
for home • office • factory

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UM PSYCHIATRY RESEARCH (HUM00041689)
Seeking Youth: Ages 8-18

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE:
- Caucasian, English speaking youth ages 8-18
- With or without history of behavioral or emotional concerns
- No history of substance abuse or intellectual disability
- No recent suicidal behavior
- Currently living with at least one biological parent

WHAT IS INVOLVED:
- Interview, questionnaires, EEG (electroencephalogram), decision-making task appointment, saliva sample and optional blood draw

COMPENSATION:
- Up to $200

For more information, contact Study Coordinator:
734-232-0507, childanxiety@umich.edu

University of Michigan

Maybe all you need ***is a helping hand.***

We've brought our new IVF Lab, with top IVF live birth rate success, to Brighton for your privacy & convenience.

Time to freeze your eggs?

1000 E Stadium Blvd | Ste 3 | Ann Arbor **810.227.3232**
Also located in Brighton & Lansing

Gago Center for Fertility
GAGO IVF

L. April Gago, M.D.
Board Certified Reproductive, Endocrinology & Infertility Specialist

visit GagoFertility.com for more info & success stories

Proven, Practical and Understanding

Mediation & Resolution Specialist in Ann Arbor for over 25 years.

Divorce, Custody, Family, Elder and Workplace Mediation.
Individual Coaching.

Zena Zumeta
Mediation Services
330 East Liberty, Suite 3A, Ann Arbor 48104
734.663.1155
www.zenazumetamediation.com

What's going on in Ann Arbor?

Check out Ann Arbor's most comprehensive events calendar.

Ann Arbor Observer
AnnArborObserver.com

PERFORMANCE NETWORK THEATRE
A Space of Possibility

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Two Pianos, One Stage, 100 Years of American Music

BOOGIE STOMP!

December 31, 2015
6pm and 9pm

A fundraiser for the Network

www.pntheatre.org
734-663-0681
120 E. Huron, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

gallery review

The Art of Tyree Guyton

Wonderland finessed

Tyree Guyton's art is overwhelming. Called assemblage, it's monumental, environmental, and unmistakable—and is best grokked in one of two ways: You can stand in the middle of his Heidelberg Project and gape at the ton of installations of decorated detritus on the Detroit street where he grew up. Or you can see the current UMMA exhibit that curates his work down to key pieces. As an intro, it's like seeing through a looking glass, and there's no better way to view Wonderland.

That's exactly what Guyton, now sixty, has created during his thirty years as an artist, and Guyton's body of work is as wondrous and weird, as quirky and crazy-sane, as Lewis Carroll's.

You've probably heard of Guyton. He's the one who paints colorful polka dots on abandoned houses, who covered one with dolls and another with Motown records, who filled vacant lots with urban "junk." His work is now celebrated, but it hasn't been without controversy, including complaining neighbors, arsonists, and legal attacks by the City of Detroit, which tried repeatedly to shut him down.

And yet, most of his work still stands, minus what the arsonists and bulldozers destroyed. It is now hailed as Art, a cultural phenomenon known worldwide. What started as his personal way to improve his own blighted neighborhood blossomed into a global tourist attraction for the city that shunned him.

But the immersive Heidelberg Project experience can be an ADD nightmare—huge and everywhere and *too* too much. That's why UMMA's looking-glass approach is perfect. You view the exhibit by appointment in a small group. It's in a small gallery, staged with relatively few pieces. One person tells Guyton's story—the time I visited, it was MaryAnn Wilkerson, who knows him and worked with him when she was a modern art curator at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Now an adjunct curator at UMMA, Wilkerson starts with how Guyton came to be an artist: his grandfather, Sam Mackey, a housepainter, put a brush in the preteen Tyree's hand to distract him from drugs and guns.

She continues with Guyton's artistic stirrings and motivations as she guides our group of twenty-plus through the exhibit, pointing out motifs, like Motown albums—an especially important theme to an African American in Detroit—and the U.S. flag, which one visitor notes is depicted in distress positions. As she walks us through his progress and success, she tells great, intimate stories. After a probing Q&A, people still mill about, not quite ready to leave.

I wander over to "What's Going On," a sculpture assemblage that jams a Marvin Gaye album (the record's actually in its cover) into a birdcage perched atop a beat-up pedestal. My native Detroiter heart sang, remembering that my very first single was one of Marvin's. But, as with most of Guyton's art, there's a pang, too, this one about Motown's and Detroit's fates. Maya Angelou's *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* comes to mind.

That kind of poignancy is in so much of Guyton's art and in this exhibit, beautifully curated to be manageable, understandable, and inviting—until its closing on January 3.

—Sally Wright Day

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Art Off the Wall* (Dec. 4–Jan. 9). Annual holiday exhibition of works in various media by 12 local artists. Reception Dec. 4, 6 p.m. Mon.–Thurs. 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, ***Downtown Branch*** (343 S. Fifth Ave.): *Always Lost: A Meditation on War* (Dec. 11–Feb. 24 in the 3rd floor exhibit area). A national traveling exhibit highlighted by a "Wall of the Dead" that includes photographs and names of more than 6,500 U.S. military war casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11. *Cuba: An Opening Door* (Dec. 2–Jan. 14 in the Multipurpose Room). Exhibit of 51 photos from local artist Sandy Schopbach's recent trip to Cuba. *Animals in Rhyme: The Friends of Mother Goose* (Dec. 2–Jan. 14 in the lower level display cases). A U-M Special Collections Library exhibit of children's literature. ***Malletts Creek Branch*** (3090 E. Eisenhower): *Winter Scenes* (Dec. 15–Jan. 28). Multimedia watercolor, ink, acrylic, and collage works by artists living with memory loss who have participated in U-M Silver Club programs. Mon. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Tues.–Fri. 9 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. noon–6 p.m. 327–4555.

Clay Gallery. *See Power Center, below.*

Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), ***Main Hospital:*** *Fresh Water Michigan,* oil paintings by Karin Wagner Coron and photos by Steven Coron; *Found Object Fish,* mixed-media sculptures by Stephen Palmer; *Scenes in Fabric* by Lenore Crawford (all 3 exhibits run Dec. 14–Mar. 13). ***Taubman Center:*** *Splits & Music,* snowflake paper cuttings by Thomas Clark; *Art from My Heart,* ceramics by Daria White Paik; *A Gathering of Friends,* linocut prints by Laura DeLind; *Garden Inspired Art Pottery* by Maggie Bandstra (all 4 exhibits run Dec. 14–Mar. 13). Daily 8 a.m.–8 p.m. (Main Hospital) & 8 a.m.–5 p.m. (Taubman Center). 936–ARTS.

MIX, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. *Leslie Sobel* (Dec. dates TBA). Nature-inspired encaustics by this local artist. Reception Dec. 4, 6–9 p.m. Hours TBA. 961–8704.

Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. *DIYpsi Holiday Market* (Dec. 12 & 13). Show and sale of works by more than 80 area artists. 11 a.m.–8 p.m. (Dec. 12) & noon–6 p.m. (Dec. 13). 480–2787.

U-M Lane Hall Gallery, 204 S. State. *Stories of Mothers Lost* (through Dec. 11). Exhibit of handmade quilts that memorialize women who died of pregnancy-related complications. Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–5 p.m. 764–9537.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Forest and Tree: A Multitude of Gifts* (Nov. 28–Jan. 3). Views of forests or trees in various media by local and U-M artists. *The Gift of Nature* (Nov. 28–Jan. 4). Display of plants that have benefited humans, with information about how they have been used in everything from food and medicine to technology and religion. Daily 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. (except Wed., 10 a.m.–8 p.m.). 647–7600.

U-M Museum of Art (UMMA), 525 S. State. *New Technologies and Victorian Society* (Dec. 5–May 8). Exhibit of early British photos from the museum's collection. *Metamorphosis Chat* (Dec. 5–Mar. 27). Video installation by Turkish artist Ferhat Özgür, in which two women—one in a headscarf and one not—begin giddily swapping clothes. Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 764–0395.

U-M Power Center, 121 Fletcher. *New Ceramic Work by Ann Arbor's Clay Gallery* (Dec. 2–Jan. 11). Lobby exhibit opens an hour before each performance. claygallery.org, 730–8187.

U-M Residential College Art Gallery, 701 East University. *RC Student Exhibition* (Nov. 30–Dec. 17). Juried exhibit of works in various media. Reception Dec. 4, 3:30–5:30 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. 762–0032.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel. *2015 Undergraduate Juried Exhibition* (Nov. 30–Dec. 15). Works in various media by some 40 students. Reception Dec. 4, 5–7 p.m. Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sat. noon–5 p.m. 368–1095.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *Facing Forward* (through Dec. 15). Work by U-M art & design first-year grad students, who explore themes of public engagement and the intersection between real-world issues and creative inquiry. Reception Dec. 4, 5–7 p.m. Tues.–Sun. noon–7 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *2015 Annual Holiday Show* (Dec. 1–Jan. 2). Show and sale of paintings, jewelry, photography, ceramics, and more by 44 artists. Reception Dec. 4, 7 p.m. Tues. & Wed. noon–6 p.m., Thurs. noon–9 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon–10 p.m., Sun. noon–5 p.m. 761–2287.

ebrates the 30th anniversary of Guyton's Heidelberg Project in Detroit, with a mixed-media sculpture by Guyton and a TV monitor that shows the ongoing construction of a house on Heidelberg St. that replaces one destroyed by arson. *2–3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

★Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove. All invited to celebrate the primal mother and father deities, Danu and Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. *2–5 p.m., ICC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. Free. 277–1897.*

Winter Holiday Exhibition: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. AAFSC members of various ages and skating levels present freestyle, ice dance, and pairs performances. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cash or canned food donation for Food Gatherers. 213–6768.*

★Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music highlighted by contemporary Japanese composer Yo Goto's *A Nutcracker Fantasy.* The program concludes with a visit from Santa, who provides candy canes for kids and joins a sing-along of traditional Christmas songs. *2 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426–2734.*

"All about the Trio: All Things Vibes": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe leads her trio and guest vibes player **Cary Kocher** in one of her popular lecture-concerts. Today's program focuses on works by George Shearing, Milt Jackson, and the Modern Jazz Quartet. With bassist Paul Keller and drummer Pete Siers. *2 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10–$25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Anne of Green Gables": EMU Theatre Department. See 4 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Light in the Piazza": U-M Musical Theatre Department.** See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Henry IV, Part 1": U-M Theatre Department. See 10 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics. The U-M men's gymnastics team, a perennial national power that has won 3 NCAA national championships in the past 6 years, prepares for the 2016 season with an intrasquad meet. *3 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Ticket prices TBA. 764–0247.*

★**"Perler Bead Snowflakes": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *3–4 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Gloria! A Christmas Concert": St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church.** Lucia Campbell conducts the church's adult and children's choirs in Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's Magnificat, Joseph Martin's "The Light Before Christmas," and other seasonal sacred classics. With trumpeter William Campbell and pianist Jihye Kim. *3 p.m., St. Thomas, 530 Elizabeth St. Freewill offering. 761–8606.*

"Amahl & the Night Visitors": Arbor Opera Theater. This polished local company performs Gian Carlo Menotti's family-friendly 1-act opera, about a crippled boy and his impoverished mother who are visited by the 3 kings following the Christmas star. Jealous to see such rich gifts headed for a newborn while her child has nothing, Amahl's mother decides to snag a bit of gold while the kings sleep. Her theft is found out and forgiven but leads to a much greater present, which Amahl both gives and mysteriously receives. Parents may drop kids off (preregistration required at arboropera.com) for a 3-hour program that includes the show, a pizza dinner, a **carol sing-along,** and holiday crafts. *3 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Tickets $10 (seniors & students, $8; kids age 11 & under, $5; extra $5 for a drop-off ticket). arboropera.com, 332–9063.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra. This volunteer community orchestra directed by Adam Riccinto is joined by the WCC Choir, directed by Joseph Daniells, for a program works by Leroy Anderson, Victor Hely-Hutchinson, Joseph Martin, John Rutter, and other holiday favorites. Also, a visit from Santa. *3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $12 (seniors age 65 & older, students with ID, & kids under age 12, $6; family, $30) in advance at ypsilantisymphony.org and at the door. 507–1451.*

"La Contenance Angloise": Ann Arbor Grail Singers. Carmen Cavallaro directs this 16-voice women's early-music choir in a program that explores the English influence on Franco-Flemish Renaissance music. Accompanists are viola da gambist **Marilyn Fung,** bray harpist **Gail Arnold,** recorder player **Beth Gilford,** and sackbut player **Laura Crytzer.** Highlighted by Dufay's lament on the loss of Constantinople in 1453, with guest soprano **Deborah Friauff,** the program also includes psalms, motets, and Gregorian chants by Dunstable and Dufay and other English and Flemish composers. *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Parking available at Community High School. $15 (seniors, $12; students, $5). AnnArborGrailSingers.org, 662–0631.*

Michigan Playwrights Festival: Theatre Nova. See 8 Tuesday. Today: ***Swimming While Drowning,*** Emilio Rodriguez's heartbreakingly funny coming-of-age drama about 2 teenage boys living in an LGBT homeless shelter in L.A. 4 p.m.

★**"The Wicked + The Divine": Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to join a discussion of Kieron Gillen and Jamie McKelvie's graphic novel about 12 gods that briefly become human every 90 years. Followed by the group's annual **holiday party** and white elephant gift exchange. *4:30–6 p.m., location TBA. Free. lorrelsu@hotmail.com*

★**Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to discuss 2 mysteries set in the 1920s: Dorothy Sayers' ***The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club*** is about an aristocratic sleuth who uncovers the mystery behind the death of a 90-year-old general on Armistice Day. ***The Man with the Dark Beard*** is Annie Haynes' novel about a pair of murders credited mysteriously to the eponymous stranger. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

This holiday season you must have a reason,
A reason for seeing while the cold winds are breezing.
Your vision, it's blurry,
So be in a hurry.
Those flex dollars need to be spent,
And your old frames are bent.
So use your flex dollars before they expire.
The holidays will be brighter with new glasses rather than new tires.

Bennett OPTOMETRY

The doctors and staff at Bennett Optometry wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season. Bennett Optometry. The Eye Care Professionals. Good Vision. Good Health.

THE EYE CARE PROFESSIONALS

117 SOUTH MAIN STREET: 734.665.5306
2000 GREEN ROAD, STE. 200: 734.930.2373
CLINIC FOR VISION ENHANCEMENT: 734.665.5310
WWW.BENNETTOPTOMETRY.COM

Happy & Green Dental - Ann Arbor Implant Center

One-stop Dentistry: Your Consultation, Surgery, and Restoration by one Specialist!

Soong-Ryong Jung DDS, MS, PhD
Diplomate, American Board of Prosthodontics
Diplomate, American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry

- Bone Regeneration Surgery (L-PRF, PRP, GBR, Sinus Graft etc)
- All-on-Four (or Five)
- Cosmetic Implant Restoration
- White Implant (non-metallic implant)
- Conventional Dental Implant Surgery
- Painless Anesthesia and More

100% Metal-Free, Hypoallergenic Zirconia Dental Implants

contactus@annarborimplant.com | AnnArborImplant.com
(734) 478-7311 | 1910 Packard St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

{FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS MOST}

precious time with your loved ones

Arbor Hospice & Palliative Care has helped patients and their families live life to the fullest for more than 30 years. Arbor's experienced staff and volunteers provide certified hospice and palliative care services to patients throughout southeast Michigan experiencing life-limiting illnesses. We deliver compassionate care in inpatient settings or wherever a patient calls home, as well as grief support and education programs in the community.

(888) 992-CARE | ARBORHOSPICE.ORG
2366 OAK VALLEY DRIVE, ANN ARBOR

Arbor Hospice
DIGNITY • COMFORT • PEACE

Arbor PALLIATIVE CARE

★**Christmas Concert: New Life Church.** The eclectic church band performs unique arrangements of Christmas songs. Also, a bake sale to support the church's youth group. *5 & 7 p.m., New Life Church, 1541 Washtenaw. Free. 623–6313.*

"Glenn Tucker's Jazz Nativity": First Congregational Church. Detroit pianist Tucker performs his 4th annual Christmas program, which includes modern jazz arrangements of a range of Christmas music, with an emphasis on Messiaen's *Nativité* for pipe organ and *Vingt Regards* for piano. Other musicians include reeds player **Stephen Grady,** bassist **Ben Ralston,** and drummer **Jesse Kramer.** With narration by First Congregational minister **Robert Livingston.** *5 p.m., FCC, 608 E. William. $10. 662–1679.*

40th Annual Christmas Concert: The Willis Patterson Our Own Thing Chorale. U-M music professor emeritus Patterson directs this popular local choir in Christmas spirituals and works by African American composers. *6 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd, 2145 Independence. Free will offering. 769–4437.*

★**Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America.** All invited for vegetarian chili, cornbread, and a beverage, followed by the lighting of the Christmas tree, a Christmas story, carol singing, and socializing. Bring a favorite holiday sweet to share; beverages provided. *6–8:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 678–5497, (517) 927–3696.*

"Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Jam": Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Dec. 13 & 27.* All singers, acoustic & electric guitarists, bassists, mandolinists, banjoists, ukulele players, percussionists, keyboardists, and other musicians invited to join organizer Michael Niemi to play folk, rock, country, or original tunes. Bring a music stand and copies of sheet music. Listeners welcome. *7–9 p.m., Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $5 (members, free). Preregistration required for musicians at meetup.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. 794–6250.*

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theater in Dance Alliance's 18th annual production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. *2 & 7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets $13. 429–9599.*

★**U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from ***Uncle Vanya*** (7 p.m.), Chekhov's richly varied ensemble piece about the search for happiness—from love, achievement, or nature—at various stages of life, and ***Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*** (8 p.m.), Tony Kushner's celebrated 2-play series exploring the apocalyptic fears at the heart of contemporary culture. Also, **"Race in America"** (9 p.m.), a collage of scenes and monologues by major contemporary playwrights about racial profiling, interracial and interreligious relationships, illegal immigration, and identity. *7, 8, & 9 p.m., Keene Theatre, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 647–4354.*

"Henry V": Royal Shakespeare Company Live in HD (University Musical Society). Broadcast of the RSC production, directed by Gregory Doran, of Shakespeare's popular history play, a dynamic, challenging, and intermittently sly-humored study of the nature of political power and authority. Centered on Henry's resourceful valor during the Battle of Agincourt during the 100 Years War, the script contains some of Shakespeare's most stirringly patriotic poetry. This year marks the 600th anniversary of the Battle of Agincourt. *7 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $22 (Michigan Theater members & UMS donors & subscribers, $18) in advance at ums.org, by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

★**"Opera Studio Scenes": U-M School of Music.** See 12 Saturday. 7:30 p.m.

14 MONDAY

★**"Preschool ArtStart": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for preschoolers ages 2–5 accompanied by an adult. Siblings welcome. *10:30–11 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Band Concert: Huron High School.** Students perform works TBA. *7:30 p.m., Huron High Meyers Auditorium, 2727 Fuller. Free. 994–2096.*

★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Oriol Sans conducts this student ensemble in works by composers with Hungarian connections. Program: Haydn's intense and haunting Symphony no. 39, Ligeti's colorful and exciting *Concerto Romanesc,* Bartók's *Hungarian Sketches,* and Liszt's symphonic poem *Les Préludes.* Preceded at 7:15 p.m. in the lower lobby by a lecture on the program. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 615–3204.*

15 TUESDAY

★**"Holiday Jewelry": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *7–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Annual Show and Tell Night": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** Club members show and briefly discuss various Civil War–related items, including diaries, photographs, weapons, uniforms, paintings, and more. Previous highlights have included a set of very rare engraved slave tags and a stirring performance of period songs. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Exhibit Room near the Administration Bldg. Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750–2741.*

★**Polka Jam Session.** All accordion players and other musicians invited to play polkas and waltzes and other ethnic and old-time music. Preceded at 6 p.m. by dinner ($5–$8). *7–9 p.m., Milan Moose Lodge, 14484 Sanford Rd. (just north of Milan-Oakville Rd.), Milan. Free. 529–3903.*

★**Skazat! Poetry Series at Sweetwaters.** Reading by the widely published Detroit poet **Tommye Blount.** The program begins with open mike readings. *7–8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994–6663.*

★**"Tales and Travels from Around the Globe": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Club members and others show slides of their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. Send 10–15 digital photos to lighthawkpilot@gmail.com to participate. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. hvg@michigan.sierraclub.org*

The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio. Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3–5 minute story on the monthly theme. December theme: **"Joy."** The 3 teams of judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a semiannual Grand Slam. Space limited, so it's smart to arrive early. *7:30–9 p.m. (doors open and sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. $5. 764–5118.*

★**"Holiday Portraits": Washtenaw Community Concert Band.** Chris Heidenreich conducts this 70-member ensemble in a holiday program of works by Tchaikovsky, Sousa, James Curnow, Leroy Anderson, and others. Also, a sing-along. *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. wccband.org*

"RiffTrax Live: Santa and the Ice Cream Bunny": Fathom Events. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Jazz Student Showcase: Community Music School of Ann Arbor.** Performances by CMS adult and youth jazz combos. *8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 213–2000.*

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

16 WEDNESDAY

"Tiny Tot Walks": Leslie Science & Nature Center. All kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited for a leisurely, guided walk along LSNC trails to see what's happening in nature. *10–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $4 (members, $3) per child. 997–1553.*

"Dancers as Diplomats": Ann Arbor City Club Lunch and Learn. U-M dance professor **Clare Croft** discusses her book based on more than 70 interviews with dancers who took part in cultural exchanges from the early decades of the Cold War through the post–9/11 era. Lunch. *11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., AACC, 1830 Washtenaw. $30 (members, $25). Reservations required by Dec. 11. annarborcityclub.org; 662–3279, ext. 1.*

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**"DIY Tile Coasters": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to make a coaster using a tile, scrapbook paper, and glue. *7–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Nerdy Paper Snowflakes": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn how to cut out paper snowflakes. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss ***Tsukiji: The Fish Market at the Center of the World,*** Theodore Bestor's book about Tokyo's landmark fish market. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Hashtag Comedy Show": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Performances, with audience participation, both live and via social media, by several up-and-coming area stand-up comics TBA. Hosted by veteran Detroit comics Darnell Anderson and KJ Robinson. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $8 reserved seating in advance and general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

17 THURSDAY

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Beautiful December": Ypsilanti Community Choir.** Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in "Beautiful December," "The Inn by the Edge of the Wood," "Sleigh Ride," "Good King Wenceslas," John Rutter's arrangement of "O Holy Night," "Canon of the Bells," and others. Accompanist is Maria Cimarelli. The choir is joined by the brass quintet **Four Old Men and a Babe** in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." Emcee is WEMU music director Linda Yohn. Preconcert and intermission music by the local jazz quintet **BDQ.** *7:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free, but donations accepted. 481–9285.*

"The Last Hour": Pure Existence Dance Company. *Dec. 17 & 18.* Pure Existence's pre-professional young dance company **X2** performs contemporary works by Jodie Randolph, Megan Scheppelman, Carmen Craft, and Emma Seidel. The program's six works explore human consciousness in light of last wishes, delving into themes of regret, adventure, perception, conflict, disappearance, and preparation—choreographed to music by Ólafur Arnalds, Lanterns on the Lake, Son Lux, MGMT, and Message to Bears. *7:30 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $12 in advance; $15 at the door. pureexistencedance.com*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). *Dec. 17–20, 22–24, 26, 27, & 29–31 and Jan. 1–3.* Graham McLaren directs this Scottish company—known for its nontraditional productions—in his theatrical adaptation of Dickens's beloved tale of Ebenezer Scrooge's tortuous journey from bilious tightwad to gracious benefactor. This haunting, intimate version (with only 125 audience members per show) includes puppets, live music, and an ingenious set. For age 8 and up. The Dec. 29 2 p.m. performance is sensory-friendly, with some changes made to light and sound effects and a relaxed attitude toward noise and movement by audience members (also, audience members can arrive at 1 p.m. to explore the set, meet the director, and ask questions). *Note:* All pre-Christmas shows except the Dec. 24 9 p.m. performance are sold out. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 17, 22, 23, 29, & 30), 8 p.m. (Dec. 18, 19, & 26 and Jan. 2), 2 p.m. (Dec. 19, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, & 29–31 and Jan. 2 & 3), 6 p.m. (Dec. 20 & 27 and Jan. 3), 9 p.m. (Dec. 24 & 31), & 4 p.m. (Jan. 1), Power Center. Tickets $55 in advance at ums.org & by phone, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

Andy Hendrickson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Dec. 17–19.* NYC-based observational comic known for his wry sense of humor and engaging conversational delivery. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. (Thurs.–Sat.) & 10:30 p.m. (Fri. & Sat.), 212 S. Fourth Ave. $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $12 (Thurs.) & $15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

18 FRIDAY

★**"Fix-It Friday": Maker Works.** All invited to bring anything that needs fixing—chairs, sweaters, radios, and more. Maker Works members and staff will be on hand to help fix things and offer advice. Repairs not guaranteed. *4–6 p.m., Maker Works, 3765 Plaza Dr. (off Airport Blvd. north of Ellsworth). Free. 222–4911.*

★**"Wrap It Up": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and youth in grade 6 & up invited to make their own holiday wrapping paper, bows, and tags. Supplies provided. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Friends and Music at Calvary": Calvary Presbyterian Church.** All adults and teens with special needs invited for singing, dancing, and activities. Caregivers welcome. Food. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Free. Preregistration requested. specialneeds@calvarya2.com, 971–3121.*

★**"Red Hot and Holy: A Heretic's Love Story": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room Book Discussion.** All invited to join a discussion of comparative religion scholar Sera Beak's spiritual memoir. *7:30–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

★**"Holiday Concert": Women's Chamber Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in an eclectic program that includes holiday favorites, settings of poems by Emily Dickinson and others, and upbeat contemporary tunes. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. *7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free; donations accepted. 665–9271.*

"The Last Hour": Pure Existence Dance Company. See 17 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"The Three Musketeers": Young Actors Guild. *Dec. 18–20.* Young local actors perform an adaptation of Alexander Dumas's swashbuckling tale full of swordfights, adventure, romance, wild antics, and intrigue. Appropriate for grade 4 & up. *7:30 p.m. (Dec. 18 & 19) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 19 & 20), Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets $10 (students, $5). 926–5629.*

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

"Paul Keller's Christmas Songs for Jazz Lovers": Kerrytown Concert House. Local bassist Keller leads an ensemble of local jazz musicians in songs from their two holiday jazz albums. Musicians include pianist **Ellen Rowe,** drummer **Sean Dobbins,** trumpeter **Paul Finkbeiner,** trombonist **Chris Smith,** saxophonist **Keith Kaminski,** and vocalist **Sarah D'Angelo.** *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney, and her recent CD *We Are Each Other's Angels* has gotten airplay around the world. The lineup also includes **Matt Watroba,** a veteran Detroit folksinger who sings lyrical songs and poignant ballads in a sweet tenor voice, and **David Barrett,** a singer-songwriter and guitar virtuoso from Lansing whose songs cover a variety of topics from stories about children and criminals to the things hound dogs would say if they could talk. Also, **All about Eve,** the vocal trio of Geddes, Deb Wood, and David Vaughn. They specialize in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied by guitarist Dan Reynolds and percussionist Lori Fithian. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662–4536, 665–8558.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. Sold out. 8 p.m.

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

Andy Hendrickson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

19 SATURDAY

★**68th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society.** The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens this evening at 6 p.m. *6 a.m. For instructions on where and when to show up and any further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973–9422. Free; donations accepted. To sign up as a feed-*

pain recovery solutions
relieving pain, restoring dignity

Providing medical care and psychosocial support for patients with chronic pain

The only private practice in Southern Michigan offering integrated services in Internal Medicine, Addiction Medicine and Pain Management.

Affiliated with St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Ypsilanti, MI, and the University of Michigan Medical Center

4870 W Clark Road, Suite 201 • Ypsilanti, MI 49197 • 734.434.6600
relief@painrecoverysolutions.com • www.painrecoverysolutions.com

Hearing aids: glasses for your ears

If you had a problem seeing, you'd get help.
So, if you have a problem hearing, get help.
It's just that simple.

Hearing loss is gradual and can occur at any age. A simple hearing test will show if any loss has occurred, and our expert Audiologists will help determine the best steps to take.

Call today for an appointment. 1-800-851-6672

M.O.S.A. Hearing Aid Centers & Audiology Services
Reichert Health Center, Suite 2016
a division of Michigan Otolaryngology Surgery Associates

ANN ARBOR • BRIGHTON • CANTON • CHELSEA • SALINE

er watcher, contact Kurt Hagemeister at 663–9746 or khagemeister@sbcglobal.net.

★**Grange Junior Makers: Pittsfield Grange.** Kids, accompanied by a participating adult, invited to work on electronics, robotics, and woodworking projects TBA. *10 a.m.–noon, Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free. 926–5079.*

★**Death Café.** All invited to join a frank conversation about death led by participants. Hosted by After Death Home Care founder Merilynne Rush. Tea & cake served. *10 a.m.–noon, Crazy Wisdom Tearoom, 114 S. Main. Free. 395–9660.*

"Pop-Up Makerspace: Build a Ball, Make a Ramp": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 19 & 20.* All invited for hands-on engineering activities. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Sat.) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun.), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $12 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995–5439.*

★**"Health & Wellness: Community Vinyasa Yoga": Ann Arbor District Library.** A2 Yoga instructor Raina LaGrand leads adults and teens in grade 6 & up in a session of this style of yoga that synchronizes breath and movement. Dress prepared to work out and bring a mat if you have one. *10–11:30 a.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

"Annual Bizarre Bazaar": Great Lakes Judging (Orchids). Auction of donated orchid-related items, including rare orchid species, divisions of select clones, potting supplies, and other items. Potluck lunch provided by the Judging Center judges. *11 a.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free admission; metered parking. (517) 332–0004.*

★**"A Visit with Father Christmas": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens.** Kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to visit Santa and have their photo taken. *Noon–2 p.m., Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. Free; metered parking. 647–7600.*

★**Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library.** Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose performances are known for their interpretive flair, technical skill, and informal choreography, along with a dash of humor. This popular annual concert showcases the group's varied repertoire of classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. *1–2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–4555.*

"Splash Day": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. A family-oriented afternoon of pool games and contests. Prizes. *2–4 p.m., Mack Indoor Pool, 715 Brooks. $5 (youth age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & older, $4). 794–6234.*

★**"Colorful Pom Pom Garlands": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for adults and teens in grade 6 & up. *2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Star Wars Light Saber Academy": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local Terra Prime Light Armory staff show kids in grades K–5 how to use a light saber. In conjunction with the release of *Star Wars: The Force Awakens. 2–3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–8301.*

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 3 p.m.

★**Treetown Community Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program of seasonal music, along with a doo-wop medley. Followed by a potluck. *4 p.m., Gladwin Center, 4105 W. Liberty. Free; donations accepted. 355–7738.*

Louis Nagel: Kerrytown Concert House. This U-M piano professor performs Schubert's Piano Sonata in B-flat major and Haydn's Variations in F minor. Preceded at 3:15 p.m. by a lecture on the program by Nagel. *4 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15–$30 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folkdancers. Dancing to recorded music. No partner needed; beginners welcome. The program begins with a lesson. *7–10 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. $5 (students, $3). 709–8748.*

★**"4th Annual Solstice Sing for Peace."** All invited to join Lori Fithian, Jean Chorazyczewski, and others to sing familiar songs of peace, hope, and good cheer in a candle-lit church sanctuary. *7 p.m., First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 426–7818.*

"The Three Musketeers": Young Actors Guild. See 18 Friday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. Peter Baker and Martha vander Kolk call to live music by Debbie Jackson and Brad Battey. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Preceded by a lesson at 7:30 p.m. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $10 (Grange members, $7; students, $5). 417–0567.*

"Canons and Carols": Vocal Arts Ensemble. Benjamin Cohen directs this local chamber choir in a wide range of canons, rounds, and carols, from Theo Morrison's Missa Brevis to Mouton's extraordinary "Nesciens Mater" to carols from Latvia. Reception follows. *8 p.m., Genesis of Ann Arbor, 2309 Packard. Tickets $20 (seniors age 65 & over and K–12 students, $15) in advance from VAE members and at vocalartsannarbor.org*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. Sold out. 2 & 8 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Casting Session": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Wednesday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Tuesday. 8 p.m.

Andy Hendrickson: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 17 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

20 SUNDAY

★**"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement. *1–1:40 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**String Preparatory Academy Fall Recital: U-M School of Music.** Young local musicians perform works TBA. *1 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 615–3204.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All kids, accompanied by an adult, invited for contra and square dancing with callers Lark Speyer and Marlin Whitaker and live music by Donna Baird and Fred Karsch. Followed by cookies and cocoa. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★**"Come as You Are: Art of the 1990s": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of 90s artwork that explores debates over identity politics, the digital revolution, and globalization. *2–3 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 764–0395.*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. Sold out. 2 & 6 p.m.

"Dickens: An A Cappella Carol": Performance Network Professional Season. See 2 Wednesday. 2 p.m.

"The Three Musketeers": Young Actors Guild. See 18 Friday. 2 p.m.

"An Almost British Christmas": Theatre Nova. See 3 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**"Winter Solstice Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a hike along the lakeshore. *3–5 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings, north off North Territorial. Free; $5 vehicle entry fee. severances@ewashtenaw.org; 971–6337, ext. 335.*

★**"Secret Agent Training Center": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–8 invited for a hands-on introduction to carrying secrets, mastering disguises, writing in code, and other strategies employed by spies. *3–4 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a haunting solo treble performance of "Once in royal David's city." *4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

★**"A Christmas Carol": Northside Community Church.** Sheree and Paul Clark direct the church's chancel and bell choirs and guest vocalists and instrumentalists in a varied program of vocal and instrumental holiday music with spirituals, works by Ives and Brahms, and more. With Susie and Kathryn Goodson on organ and piano. Reception follows. *7 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free; donations accepted for a local nonprofit. 662–6351.*

"UN-Home for the Holidays": The UNclub/Emergent Arts. Performances by local comics who take aim at all that is unholy about the holidays, from dysfunctional family dinners to bad Santa experiences and general bah humbuggery. Emcee is Mark Sweetman. *7 p.m., The Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. $10 in advance at emergentarts.com and at the door. 985–0875.*

21 MONDAY

★**"Winter Ballet Storytime Fun!": Ann Arbor District Library.** Storytelling program, with movement and music, celebrating the art of ballet. For preschoolers through 2nd graders. *1–1:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★**Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects together and learn about guild activities. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *6:45–9 p.m., Pittsfield Village Community Bldg., 2220 Pittsfield Blvd. (park on the street, or in the south lot). Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). 994–4385.*

Winter Solstice Sing: Michigan Friends Center. All adults and older children invited to join an outdoor circle to learn and sing seasonal songs, rounds, and chants. *7–9 p.m., Michigan Friends Center, 7448 Clark Lake Rd. (off Oakridge from Waterloo Rd. west of M-52), Chelsea. Donation. Preregistration requested. 475–1892.*

★**"Folk Song Sing-Along."** All invited to join a family-oriented recreational sing-along of folk songs. Bring your guitars, ukuleles, and other instruments if you'd like to jam along as well. Lyrics and chords are projected on a screen for singers and strummers. Led by Lori Fithian and Jean Chorazyczewski. *7 p.m., First Unitarian-Universalist Church, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 426–7818.*

22 TUESDAY

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. Sold out. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

23 WEDNESDAY

"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. *Dec. 23 & 30.* Skating to music by a DJ. *11 a.m.–4 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. $6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, $5). $1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available ($3). 794–6235.*

"The Wizard of Oz": The Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 3 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. Sold out. 7:30 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

24 THURSDAY (CHRISTMAS EVE)

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. Today's matinee is sold out. 2 & 9 p.m.

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors present the traditional Nativity scene, accompanied by a live camel, goats, sheep, and a donkey. *4–8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662–1679.*

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with congregational carol singing led by the church's chancel choir. Also, a 30-minute choral & instrumental prelude precedes each program. *5 & 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"A Musical Prelude to Worship": Zion Lutheran Church.** Zion's chancel choir, handbell choir, praise band, and vocal and instrumental soloists present a program of music celebrating the birth of Christ. *6:45 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. Free. 994–4455.*

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church/Christ Church Ann Arbor.** A child-friendly celebration of Christmas stories and music led by pianist Martin Katz. With tenor Glenn Perry, mezzo soprano Holly Perry, violist John Madison, and Sheree Clark on handbells. Preceded at 6:40 p.m. by an instrumental prelude. *7–8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662–6351.*

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. *7:30–9 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663–9376.*

★**"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in excerpts from the Christmas section of Handel's *Messiah*. *10 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

25 FRIDAY (CHRISTMAS)

See Michigan Theater listings in Films, p. 88.

26 SATURDAY

"Hands-On Holidays": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. *Dec. 26–Jan. 3.* Family-friendly hands-on activities, performances, and demonstrations. *10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Mon.–Fri., except Jan. 1) & noon–4 p.m. (Sun. & Jan. 1), AAHOM, 220 E. Ann. $12 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Dec. 26 & 28–31.* Movie and TV star, playwright, and Purple Rose founder Daniels is also a singer-songwriter whose folk-flavored originals include such favorites as "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too," "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," "State Trooper," and "Recreational Vehicle." His shows are interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. A benefit for Purple Rose. *8 p.m. (all dates) & 3 p.m. (Dec. 26 & 31), Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $75 (except Dec. 31 8 p.m. show, $85). purplerosetheatre.org, 433–7673.*

Nick Gaza: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. A veteran guest performer in TV sitcoms, Gaza is a very funny and playfully irreverent stand-up comic who bills himself as "The Laziest Working Man in Show Business," sometimes even performing in PJs. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m. & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $13 reserved seating in advance, $15 general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

27 SUNDAY

★**"Joy to the World: A Festival of Carols and Hymns for Christmas": First Presbyterian Church.** All invited to join a congregational singing of Christmas carols and hymns, along with organ music by Michael Burkhardt, J.S. Bach, and Louis-Claude Daquin. Organist is First Presbyterian music director Tom Granum. *10 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Uphill and Down: A Short Hills Ramble": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike, with some steep hills, to explore the topography of this preserve. Also, information on glacial history soils, and habitats of the area. *2–4 p.m., Sharon Short Hills Preserve, Hashley Rd. (from I-94 take M-52 south to Grass Lake Rd. west), Sharon Twp. Free. stonerf@ewashtenaw.org; 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"Balloon Critters": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 invited to turn balloons into fun creatures. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. 2 & 6 p.m.

"A Tribute to the Lawrence Welk Show": Arbor Opera Theater. This polished local opera company presents a fun-filled family-friendly spoof of Welk's iconic long-running musical variety show. Desserts, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks. *4 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1500 Scio Church Rd. $10 (refreshments seating, $25–$40) in advance at arboropera.com. 332–9063.*

28 MONDAY

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Saturday. 8 p.m.

29 TUESDAY

★**"Silly Stories for the New Year": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local storytellers Nicole Williams and Laura Pershin Raynor present a program of fun-

ny folktales for kids in grades preK–3 and their families. *2–2:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

★"Make a New Year Journal": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to learn some basic bookbinding stitches and make their own journal for 2016. *2–4 p.m., AADL secret lab (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

★"Zen & the Art of Coloring": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults invited to see if they can attain a meditative state of mind by coloring pages from Joanna Basford's popular *Secret Garden, Enchanted Forest,* and brand-new *Lost Ocean* coloring books. Supplies provided. Refreshments. *7–8:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Saturday. 8 p.m.

30 WEDNESDAY

★"Wild Winter Paper Art": Ann Arbor District Library. All invited to make a cozy winter picture out of paper shapes. Supplies provided. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327–8301.*

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Saturday. 8 p.m.

31 THURSDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

"A Christmas Carol": National Theatre of Scotland (University Musical Society). See 17 Thursday. 2 & 9 p.m.

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 26 Saturday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Boogie Stomp!": Performance Network. Veteran Detroit-bred pianist **Bob Baldori,** a member of Chuck Berry's band since 1966, and award-winning Arizona-based pianist **Arthur Migliazza,** whose mentors include Ann Arbor's Mr. B, present their theatrical revue telling the story of boogie woogie, including its origins, subsequent history, and ongoing development, along with its relationship to the larger fabric of American music. *6 & 9 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $35 (6 p.m.) and $60 (9 p.m.) in advance by phone and at pntheatre.org, and at the door. 663–0681.*

"Kindling Light of Wisdom Mind": Buddhist Society for Compassionate Wisdom. All invited to join an annual year-end candle-lighting ceremony that includes meditation, chanting, and a talk. *7–9 p.m., Zen Buddhist Temple, 1214 Packard at Wells. Donation. 761–6520.*

"New Year's Eve with the Pete Siers Duo": Kerrytown Concert House. Local drummer Siers and local boogie-woogie and blues pianist **Mark "Mr. B" Braun** perform works from Siers's new CD, *Flea Circus,* a soulful collection that explores traditional piano blues of the South. *7 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $20–$40. Reservations recommended. kerrytownconcerthouse.com, 769–2999.*

"New Year's Eve Ann Arbor Dinner Trek & Midnight Chime Ringing": Of Global Interest. Local adventure tour company owners Pem Dorjee Sherpa and Heather O'Neal lead an invigorating 6-mile hike from downtown to Michigan Stadium, then north following sidewalks along the railroad to West Park, then to Argo Dam and the cascades, and ending in Kerrytown. Potluck dinner at 3 stops along the way (bring an appetizer, main dish, side dish, or dessert to share and your own beverage and water; plates, forks, and napkins provided). Followed by a midnight bell concert on the Kerrytown chimes. Rain, snow, sleet, or (moon) shine. Dress for the weather. *7:30 p.m., meet at the Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. ofglobal@aol.com*

Joe List: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Ann Arbor debut of this young Boston-bred comic, recently featured in his own Comedy Central special, who mixes wry observational humor with self-deprecating jokes. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. *8 & 10:30 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. $25 (8 p.m.) & $30 (10:30 p.m.) in advance & at the door. 996–9080.*

New Owners!

Organic Mattresses, Amish and Custom Made Furniture

All About Furniture

FurnitureAllAbout.com
5301 Jackson Rd - East of Zeeb
734-665-4646 | 734-769-0394

Please join us for

A Special Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24th 7:30pm

"A Festival of Lessons and Carols"

Based upon the annual presentation at King's College, Cambridge. Readings from the Christmas Story are alternated with choral and congregational singing of carols.

First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

Childcare provided for infants & toddlers

517 E. Washington 663-9376 • Parking at Washington St. structure • www.fbca2.org

from your friends at the

Ann Arbor Observer

2390 Winewood | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103 | 734.769.3175
AnnArborObserver.com

Classifieds

Place Your Classified Ad Today!

To advertise, email, fax, or mail your ad info to the address below by the 10th of the month. Rates are $7 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion (two line minimum). Ads will run in the next open issue.

Mail, email, or fax your ad to:
Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds
2390 Winewood Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375
Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Something to Celebrate?

Announce an engagement, wedding, birthday, or any special occasion. Text only or include a photo.

Call for more information: (734) 769-3175

Lessons & Workshops

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Get happy piano/guitar lessons for your child! Decades of training, experience, and performance. Two degrees in Music Education. For a free consult call (734) 646–2740.

PIANO LESSONS–Greater AA area, your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher, DMA U-M. Info (734) 482–4663.

Mindful Yoga – All levels welcome Oct. 1st through Nov. 19th 4:30–5:30 1415 Miller Ave. (Calvary Church) 1st class is FREE! $10.00 each session.

Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

UNIQUE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
Artistica, an established gallery/gift shop in Dexter, seeks new Michigan artistic partner. Email: info@artisticagallery.net.

Looking for hard working, energetic mover/driver for moving furniture and home furnishings. Must be professional and able to work in team environment.
Job Responsibilities and Requirements:
- Moving furniture/home furnishings
- Loading/unloading
- Must be able to lift heavy items
- Driving box truck
- Valid drivers license with good record
- Excellent customer service
- HS diploma or equivalent

Please contact Curt at (734) 834–6353 or curt@vpstaging.com.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 111? If you can, you could win a $25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon December 10. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

Ring found in Observer parking lot! Call our office at (734) 769–3175 and ask for Amber if you think it may be yours.

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Woodworker/Restorer
www.furnituredesignwoodwork.com
steve@furnituredesignwoodwork.com
(734) 265–0664—Leave Message

Debra's Personal Care Services Providing the best in home care for elderly and disabled (734) 368–5828.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

QUALITY HOUSECLEANING
Call Marie @ (734) 476–1859.

AVAILABLE TO CLEAN YOUR HOME
Excellent references. (734) 644–4510

★AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN★
Carpentry ★ Plumbing ★ Electrical
Kitchens ★ Baths ★ Basements
Quality Work ★ Attention to detail
Firewood★Mixed Hardwood★Delivered
Call Bill (734) 262–4500.

www.NoClogGutter.com
Lifetime Warranty
No Gutter Clogs for Life!
Seamless Hood • Attractive
(734) 327–1333 • Ann Arbor

RELIABLE CLEANING SERVICE
Houses, buildings, offices & apartments. Available weekly and bi-weekly. 20 years experience, good references, reliable and quality work. **Call Cressy (734) 330–4728.**

Professional & Affordable Housekeeper
Call A Helpful Hand. (734) 975–4229.
Bonded and insured.

Experienced Cleaning at Its Best!
Call Rachel (734) 363–0839.

Outdoors

The **Classifieds deadline** for the January issue is December 10.

Fall Leaf and Cleanup
Call (734) 476–1859.

Dear Readers,

SPECIAL REQUEST

Please confirm your FREE subscription.

You may call our office to confirm at 734.769.3175, fill out the form below and mail it to our office, or email the information to subscribe@aaobserver.com. The confirmation is good for 3 years.

Why is this important?

To maintain our second-class-periodical postal status, which includes a faster, more economical delivery service, we have to show the post office that our readers want to keep receiving the Ann Arbor Observer.

Since 1976, the Observer has been a locally owned community resource. We want to continue to provide the Observer to all permanent Ann Arbor residents and chamber members in Washtenaw County. We are making every effort to keep costs in line and maintain our commitment to quality. **Please take a few minutes to confirm your FREE subscription.** Or become an Observer Friend! See page 111 for more information.

Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher

All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **December 10** will be entered in a drawing for a **$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

☐ **Yes!** I am a resident of the Ann Arbor Public School District and I want to continue receiving the Ann Arbor Observer and City Guide free of charge. Enter me in the $25 Gift Certificate drawing!

Call us at (734) 769–3175 extension 301
Click "subscribe" at AnnArborObserver.com
Or mail this form to the address below

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State____ Zip_____
Phone _____
Email _____
Signature: _____

2390 Winewood | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103 | 734.769.3175 | AnnArborObserver.com

Real Estate

Residential and Commercial Properties
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

Presented by:
Elizabeth Brien 734-669-5989

Reinhart
Charles Reinhart Company Realtors

317 MONTGOMERY AVE, ANN ARBOR—Exceptional, renovated home on a terrific lot in a great west side location has all one might desire!

This captivating 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath home perfectly balances modernity and charm in a great west side Ann Arbor location. The hardwood floors, arched doorways and original details throughout create an immediate feeling of warmth and home. A smart remodeled and expanded kitchen is a cook's dream with granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Additional living space is yours in the enlarged and sunny family room with backyard access. Rare first floor powder room! Enjoy the terrific new master suite addition! The finished attic space is a great home office or studio. Enjoy the spacious backyard with enlarged paver patio, privacy fencing and mature trees. #3235720. $499,900.

For a complete list of features please visit: www.elizabethbrien.com

J.ADRIAN WYLIE

Working from the ground up? We'll help. With a custom loan for your custom home.

For flexibility and convenience, consider a Construction Advantage Loan from Huron Valley Financial. Your loan can be a traditional one-time close. Or we can break it into two closes: The first covers your home's construction – and the second is for your life in the home, from the day you move in. You get just the home you want, with just the financing you need.

HVF

The Home Loan for Your Life

HURON VALLEY FINANCIAL

734.669.8000

2395 Oak Valley Drive, Suite 200
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48103
www.HuronValleyFinancial.com

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
NMLS #130672

Real Estate One

MATT DEJANOVICH

www.IsellAnnArbor.com
Real Estate One's #1 Agent
Over $750 Million Career Sales
734-662-8600 or 734-476-7100

MARKET UPDATE - December 2015

Wow!! What a year in Real Estate. The 2015 selling season is winding down and this year may go on the books as the strongest year ever for Ann Arbor real estate. Driven by demand to live in our wonderful community and outstanding neighborhoods, home values reached their highest level ever in many areas. 2016 will bring more of the same. Are you thinking of buying or selling in 2016? Call me today for a private consultation, 734-476-7100.

SELLERS – The value of your home is at its highest level since 2007. Demand for your home is at the highest level since 2004. But this market is far from "easy". The issues of pricing, managing multiple offers, and successfully appraising the home with the buyer's lender are more complex than ever. It takes an experienced agent with an effective strategy to successfully sell your home and get it closed. Please call me to discuss your situation today. 734-476-7100.

BUYERS – Word on the street is that there are no quality homes to buy. Somehow I manage to lead the county in closed buyer sales year to date. I have been successful in finding the best homes available for most of my buyers (not all, sorry). The process of home selection, offer strategy, and financing are a challenge. You need an experienced agent in your corner to find the right house and successfully close. Call me today to start your search. 734-476-7100.

#1 Individual producing real estate agent in Michigan
Individual producing real estate agent in Washtenaw County
Agent in Saline Schools
Agent in Pittsfield Township
In sales of $1 Million homes in Ann Arbor – 2014

Over $50 million sold & closed in 2014
Over 100 homes sold in 2014
Over $750 million in career sales volume

Call or Email today for a no-obligation private consultation.
734-476-7100 or Matt@ISellAnnArbor.com

Matt Dejanovich has been a realtor serving the Ann Arbor area for 25 years and has been a resident of the community his entire life. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his clients.

NO ASSISTANTS! NOT ONE.
WHEN YOU HIRE MATT, YOU GET MATT.

ANN ARBOR – Stunning 4-bedroom, 6 ½-bath custom-built home. Just minutes from U-M hospitals, central campus, and all freeways. This home represents the finest design, materials, and craftsmanship you will see on the market today. The resort-like setting includes extensive landscaping, an in-ground pool, and an outdoor kitchen. The interior is highlighted by the two-story barrel ceiling great room, gourmet kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished lower level. $1,995,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This stunning 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath 2003 Showcase of Homes entry represents the finest combination of design, materials, and workmanship on the market today. Incredible setting includes manicured grounds, extensive landscaping, oversized patio, and a stream with two waterfalls. The interior is a showpiece. Features include hardwood floors throughout, upgraded trim and molding, great room with stacked stone fireplace, gourmet kitchen with Viking appliances, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $1,200,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath, custom-built home on a gorgeous 3-acre+ setting overlooking the Saline River. You will not find a more striking home or setting on the market today. Park-like setting includes extensive landscaping, paver patio, and circle drive. The interior is a showpiece with design, craftsmanship, and materials. Highlights include oversized cherry kitchen with granite, great room with wall of glass, luxury first floor master bedroom, and finished walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ALL SPORTS LAKEFRONT ESTATE – Incredible private estate features 20-acres of gorgeous woodlands and frontage on all-sports, private Putnam Lake in Pinckney. This is a rare opportunity to find a magnificent custom-built home on a secluded waterfront estate. 4-bedroom, 3-bath ranch with stunning lake views from every room in the house. Features include large great room with fieldstone fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite counter, first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. Additional guest cottage makes this a great family gathering place. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath, custom-built ranch on 74+ rolling acres just west of Saline. Incredible setting with 60-acres of tillable land, plus woods and a pole barn. The home is top quality throughout and features welcoming great room, oversized cherry kitchen with granite counter tops, sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, and spacious finished walkout basement with two rec rooms, wet bar, and full bath. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath, on a spacious acre lot in one of Saline's most desired neighborhoods. This home has been completely renovated in the past 5 years. It's gorgeous!! Great lot features extensive landscaping, large patio, and in-ground pool. The interior features custom cherry kitchen with granite and high-end appliances, cherry floors, family room with fireplace, oversized sunroom, luxury master suite with remodeled bath and sitting room, and finished basement. $779,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING - LOHR WOODS – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home is less than two years old and in better than new condition. Features includes quiet cul-de-sac lot, spacious backyard, perfect décor and upgrades throughout, all hardwood flooring on the main level, dream kitchen with custom cabinets and granite counters, large family room, incredible master suite, and finished basement with view out windows. This home is gorgeous. $649,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – Dramatic 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath, custom-built home in one of Saline schools most desired neighborhoods. Walk to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School from this most convenient location. This home is loaded with custom extras. Features include two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances, sunroom, den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $619,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MATHIEA FARMS – Gorgeous 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath Hobbs and Black designed, contemporary ranch on a private 1.5-acre lot in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods. The setting features extensive landscaping, screened porch, and large deck. The interior has been completely renovated and features hardwood floors throughout, striking great room with wall of glass to the backyard, gourmet kitchen with granite, luxury first floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

KING SCHOOL – Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath contemporary home with your own private path to King Elementary. Wonderful setting with mature trees, two decks, and large grassy area. The interior of this home has had many updates. Highlights include living and dining rooms with high vaulted ceilings, walls of glass, Brazilian cherry floor, and full height fireplace, large kitchen with vaulted ceiling, large master suite with remodeled bath, large kids' rooms, flex use study could be 4th bedroom, and lower level family room. $579,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BACH ELEMENTARY – Wonderful 4-bedroom, 3-bath. Arts and crafts inspired renovation. Walking distance to downtown Ann Arbor. Great setting in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This home is loaded with all of the features you've been hoping for. Highlights include hardwood flooring in most rooms, open concept floor plan, inviting living room with wood stove, large kitchen, first floor master suite, and great sized kids' bedrooms. $539,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL FARMS -
Stunning 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath, colonial in one of Saline schools most sought after neighborhoods. Walk to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Great lot deep within the neighborhood features large private backyard, paver patio, and extensive landscaping. The interior highlights include great room with vaulted ceiling, open concept living room, oversized kitchen with cherry cabinets and stainless steel appliances, den, luxury master suite, and great sized kids' bedrooms. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

RIVERWOOD – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of Ann Arbor's most sought after neighborhoods, walking distance to Wines Elementary. Great setting featuring large deck, extensive landscaping, and great backyard. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include open concept floor plan, large kitchen with hardwood floor, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, first floor den, luxury master suite, and great kids' bedrooms. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – HUNTERS RIDGE – Very sharp 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath custom-built home on a quiet cul-de-sac lot backing to trees. This home has been perfectly cared for and nicely updated. Features include open concept floor plan, family room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, updated kitchen, first floor den, luxury master suite, and finished lower level with large rec space. The backyard features wonderful outdoor living area. $434,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

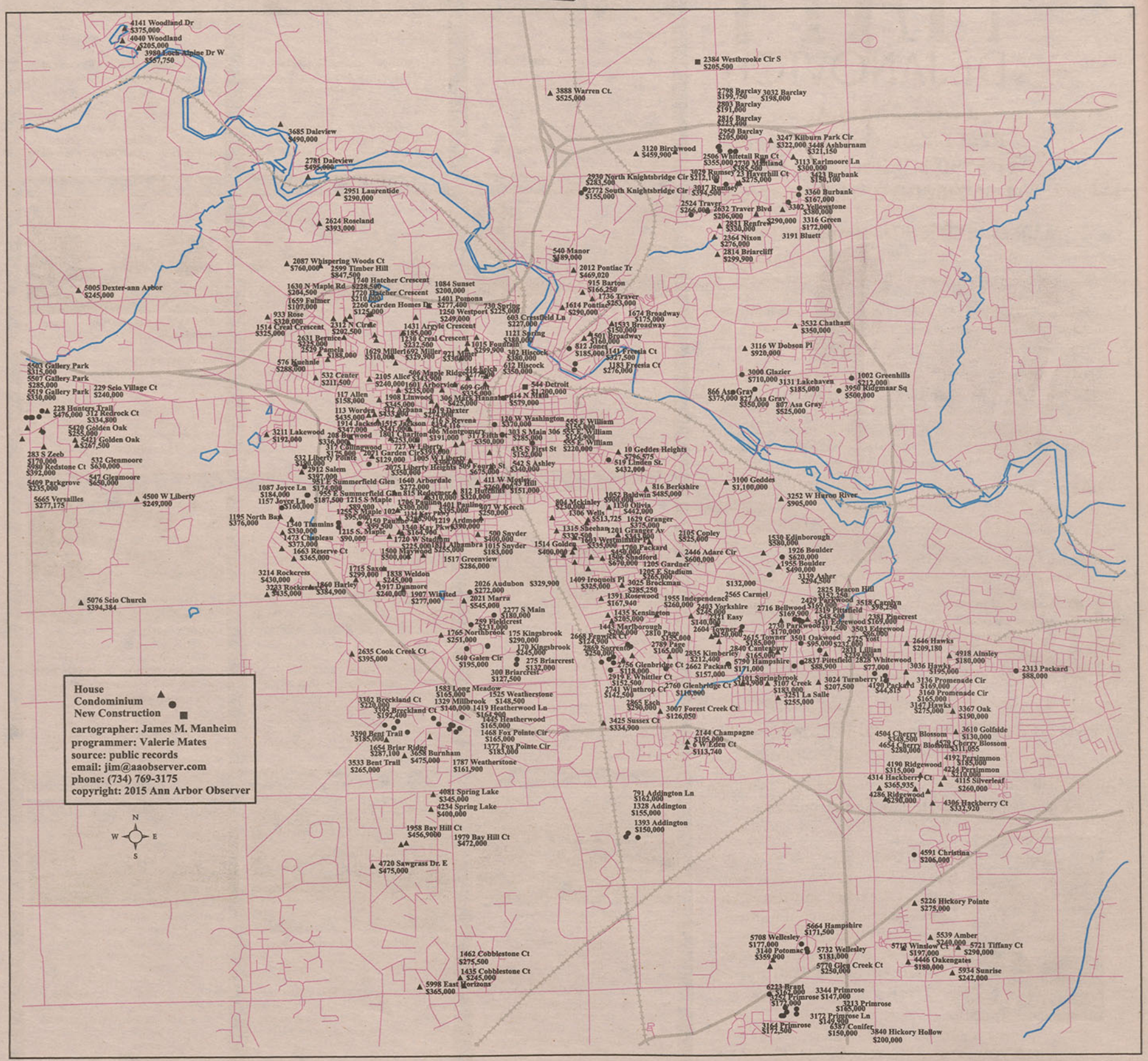
DIUBLE MEADOWS – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial on a spacious ¾-acre lot in one of Saline schools most desired neighborhood. Great setting with large deck, extensive landscaping, and huge backyard. The interior of this home sparkles. Features include open concept living with spacious maple kitchen with stainless steel appliances, large family room with fireplace, great formal living and dining rooms, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, walk-in closet, and bath, and three large kids' bedrooms. $389,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – PATTENGILL ELEMENTARY – Charming 4-bedroom, 2-bath cape on a quiet cul-de-sac lot in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This is a great setting with mature trees, large backyard, and lots of privacy. The interior is move-in ready and features welcoming living room, large kitchen, family room/sunroom with fireplace, large flex-use bedrooms, and two full baths. $319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – LINCOLN SCHOOLS – This quality built 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath ranch rests on one of the most beautiful 7-acre settings you will see. You will fall in love with the first impression this home presents. Enjoy mature trees, wildlife, and expansive lawn all surrounded by gorgeous mature landscaping. The interior is sharp and includes large living room, nice bedrooms, and finished basement. Additional 30 x 54 pole barn. $279,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2015

HOME SALES



More than 300 homes crowd this month's map. Because no map was published last month, this one includes sales from both September and October.

Many readers called or emailed to ask about the missing map. Realtor Kevin Duke, who created the Home Sales Map twenty years ago and has produced it single-handedly ever since, is retiring from his cartographic role. Even with his considerable help, it's taking his successors a while to get up to speed.

The very first Observer Home Sales Map showed eighty single-family homes and condos sold in December 1995. They ranged from a three-bedroom, one-bath ranch in Arbor Oaks for $49,500 to a new four-bedroom, five-bath home in Tanglewood that went for $420,000. Single-families averaged $161,000. Boosted by three sales in the then-new Ridgewood complex off W. Liberty, condos averaged $121,000.

The map was a hybrid. Duke had approached the Observer with a self-published book of maps showing Ann Arbor housing price patterns. Merging it with the concept of the Observer's Crime Map created the format the Home Sales Map has followed ever since: showing the location and price of every home sold in a given month.

Make that *reported* sold during a given month. Though most Realtors posted sales in a timely way, some started delaying some reports in hopes they would be left off the map. Duke simply outwaited them, posting sales to the map whenever they were finally reported in the public record.

Further testing Duke's determination to give his readers a complete and accurate record of local home sales, the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors soon challenged his use of its Multiple Listing Service data to create the map. With financial help from the Observer, Duke hired a lawyer to argue successfully that it was permitted under the board's rules. The Realtors responded by rewriting their rules to prohibit the use—at which point Duke turned to public records instead.

Our thanks to assessors in the city of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor, Northfield, Pittsfield, Salem, Superior, and Scio townships, as well as the county register of deeds, for helping us track home sales in the Ann Arbor School District for the past twenty years. Thanks as well to Duke, for stewarding it so scrupulously, and to Observer deputy editor Jim Manheim and webmaster Valerie Mates, for being such quick studies in carrying it forward.

—John Hilton

THE BOUMA GROUP
REALTORS

Work with *a true team.*

At the Bouma Group, we are a true team. We provide client support at every stage from initial contact to the closing. While others will promise you personal attention, let our entire team give you the attention you deserve.

236 Homes Sold Year to Date

ANN ARBOR'S *premier* REALTOR.
MARTIN BOUMA

734-761-3060
WWW.BOUMA.COM

kw
KELLERWILLIAMS

Superior Township

This sprawling ranch, in the prestigious Glennborough neighborhood, is an entertainers dream! Top of the line finishes include: marble and hardwoods, solid core doors, and heated stone floors. 3.5 private acres. ***$1,150,000***

Ann Arbor

This Frank Lloyd Wright style home, in the heart of Ann Arbor, has been completely renovated. Extensive use of natural stone. Gourmet kitchen, screened porch, Quartersawn white oak flooring, and much more. ***$1,150,000***

Ann Arbor

Enjoy picturesque views of woods and nature from this custom contemporary on the desirable northeast side of town. Over 6500 total sq. ft. with 6 bedrooms. Nicely finished walk-out has second kitchen and more. ***$895,000***

South Lyon

Experience fine lakefront living in this impressive 4 bedroom, 4.2 bath home. 355' of frontage on all-sports Sandy Bottom Lake. First floor in-law suite and second floor master suite with fireplace. Walk-out with wine cellar. ***$799,900***

Ann Arbor

Surrounded by trees on 3 sides, this Stonebridge home comes with numerous upgrades. Kitchen features granite counters, newer stainless appliances, island, built-in desk, and eating space with sliding doors to large deck. ***$624,900***

Pinckney

If you are looking for a truly spectacular lake home, with complete privacy, this is the place for you! Each space has an artistic detail to make it special. Includes a separate 2 bedroom apartment with full bath and kitchen. ***$595,000***

Ann Arbor

Immaculate, custom built ranch situated on 6.4 acres in a bucolic setting. Watch the sunset from the wall of windows in the vaulted great room with fireplace. Four-season sunroom. Walk-out with kitchenette and full bath. ***$525,000***

Ann Arbor

Take in the spectacular views of downtown Ann Arbor from this trendy corner unit in the famed Liberty Lofts! Walls of windows in the living room and kitchen. Granite counters, stainless appliances, hardwood floors, balcony. ***$398,000***

Dexter

Feels miles from everything, yet just minutes to downtown Dexter! Nestled on a wooded 6.5 acres, you get an up north feeling from each of the covered porches. Very open floor plan, 4 bedrooms, 2.1 baths, plus a separate studio building. ***$369,900***

Ann Arbor

Located on a beautiful corner lot in popular Loch Alpine, this updated home welcomes you with a bright 2 story foyer opening to the vaulted living and dining rooms. Newer kitchen adjoins the family room with fireplace. ***$349,900***

Dexter

Move right into this well maintained 2 story on one of the best lots in Huron Farms! Vaulted master suite. Professionally finished lower level adds even more living space. Large deck overlooks a private wooded area. ***$299,900***

Ann Arbor

Classic 4 bedroom colonial in central Ann Arbor's Georgetown neighborhood. Vaulted family room off of kitchen has a cozy fireplace and sliding glass doors opening to the huge deck and mature back yard. ***$285,000***

Ann Arbor

Rare location with total seclusion, just 1 mile from Main/Huron St. Backing to a wooded ravine, this home is full of charming features. Hardwood floors, cozy sunroom, deck, formal dining room, living room with fireplace. ***$295,000***

Ann Arbor

This Loch Alpine home is perfect for nature lovers! 1838 SF with 3 bedrooms and 2.1 baths. Beautiful backyard with spacious deck and mature trees. Family room has wood burning fireplace and walks out to the patio. ***$279,900***

Ann Arbor

Beautiful end unit at Balmoral Park with vaulted ceilings, fresh paint and new carpet! Bright and open floorplan offers 2 bedrooms and 2 baths. Kitchen has granite, cherry cabinets, and stainless appliances. Attached garage. ***$259,900***

Services

Building & Remodeling

David Klein Construction, Inc.
(248) 437-3918
Residential Remodeling & Additions
www.davidkleinconstruction.com

Graphic Design

Graphic Design
Illustration
Copy Writing
Tabi Walters
734.395.2059
www.DesignByTabi.com

Patronize our advertisers
and tell them
you saw their ad in the
Ann Arbor Observer
Thank You.

Landscape Maintenance

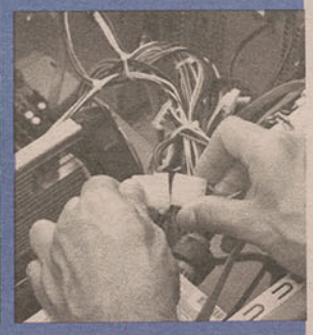
Arbor Lawn Care
Arbor Lawn Care
Snow Removal
Shrub Trimming • Mulch • Lawn Mowing
734 • 657 • 9094

Painting

Painting • Wall Repair
Wallpaper Stripping
Meticulous • 25 years' experience
Free estimates • References
Ken MacLean **734-996-0940**

Wedding & Event Planning

LUNA SOIRÉE EVENTS
Personalized Weddings | Corporate Events
Planning & Coordination
Kaeli Garcia | 734.276.7551 | lunasoiree.com



Tell 120,000 people about your business!

Whatever your business,
Observer readers want to know about it.

Contact Courtney Sidor
at courtney@aaobserver.com
or 734.769.3175

Advertiser Index

A & L Wine Castle 42
A Path Less Traveled 48
Abracadabra ..... Holiday Guide
Achatz Pies 45
Afternoon Delight 71
All About Furniture 103
Allen Creek Preschool 88
Allstate Home & Leisure ..... BC
American Home Fitness 24
Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation 7
Ann Arbor Art Association Art Center ..... Holiday Guide
Ann Arbor Artists Collective 91
Ann Arbor Carpets 32
Ann Arbor City Club 82
Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase 75
Ann Arbor District Library 77, 80
Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club 83
Ann Arbor Observer 66, 89, 94, 98, 103, 111, 112
Ann Arbor Optometry 17
Ann Arbor Meals on Wheels, Housing Bureau for Seniors 41
Ann Arbor Plastic Surgery 40
Ann Arbor Public Schools 12
Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra 85
Arbor Dog Daycare & Boarding 23
Arbor Farms Market 15
Arbor Hospice 100
Arbor Springs Water 97
Arbor Vacuum Cleaner Center 52
Arborland Mall 50
Aut Bar & Common Language Book Store 63, 72

BVE 31
Bebe's Nail & Spa 72
Bellanina Day Spa & Gift Boutique ..... 44, Holiday Guide
Bennett Optometry 99
Big City Small World Bakery 72
Birkenstock 30
Nancy Bishop, realtor, Reinhart 19
Bivouac 23
Blue Tractor/Mash 62
The Bouma Group 109
Boxwood 66
Boychoir of Ann Arbor ..... Holiday Guide
Elizabeth Brien, realtor, Reinhart 9
Brust Orthodontics 96

Cabinet Clinic 31
Calvary United Methodist Church 96
Cardamom 62
Center for Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery ..... IBC
Chaos to Order ..... Holiday Guide
Chelsea Underground Gallery 71
City of Ann Arbor—Snow Management 22
Coach Me Fit 37
Coffee Express 63
Collected Works 29
The Common Grill 62
Convenience Auto Service 46
Cranbrook Custom Homes 6
Crimson Apple Studio 36

Dance Tonight 81
Detroit Zoo 84
Dogma Catmantoo 44
Downtown Home & Garden ..... IFC

Edwards, Ellis & Armstrong CPA 93
Encore Online Resale 76
Energy Efficient Healthy Homes 2
Evangelical Homes of Michigan 38
eve 1
Exchange Capital Management Inc. 21

FabForm Design Build 18
First Baptist Church 103
First Presbyterian Church 27, 92
First United Methodist Church 86
Gerald Ford Library 79
Format Framing & Gallery 85
Found ..... Holiday Guide
Friends of the A2 District Library 81
Front Porch Textiles 93

Gago Center for Fertility 97
Germain Porsche of Ann Arbor 73
Gold Bond Cleaners 48
Great Lakes Rabbit Sanctuary 89
Grizzly Peak Brewing Company/Old German 66
Gross Electric 93
The Guild of Artists & Artisans ..... Holiday Guide, 84

Happy & Green Dental Group Dental Implants 100
Heartland Health Care Center—AA 40
Heavenly Metal 33
Hollander's 44
Holtz Christmas Tree Plantation 29
Home Appliance Mart 24, 42
Honeymoon Hauling 94
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services 14
Huron Valley Financial 106
Hylant of Ann Arbor 18

In Touch Massage 71

Jessica's Skin & Body Apothecary 30

Kerrytown Associates 10, 56
Kilwin's Chocolates ..... Holiday Guide
King's Keyboard House 11
The Kite Network 36
David Klein 110

Lucy Ann Lance 90, 94
Lily Grace Cosmetics 66

MOSA Audiology 101
Ken MacLean 110
Maggie's Organics 88
Main Street Area Association 33
Main Street Ventures 69
Mani Osteria & Isalita 69
Mast Shoes ..... Holiday Guide
Meadowlark Building 49
Michigan Premier Soccer Academy 89
Michigan Theater 86, 87
Alex Milshteyn, Coldwell Banker 4
Mix 45
Mobile Mower Repair Inc. 48
Monahan's Seafood Market 67
Motawi Tileworks 50
Motte and Bailey Booksellers 69
Ms. Green Construction 20
Mudpuddles ..... Holiday Guide

Pain Recovery Solutions 101
The Painted Trout 68
Peaceable Pets Animal Care 13
Pear Tree Gift Shop ..... Holiday Guide
Performance Network ..... Holiday Guide, 98
Pet 'N Play 29
Pewabic ..... Holiday Guide
Pierre Paul Design 26
Polo Fields 64
Purple Rose Theatre Company 90

Randazzo Dance Company 79
Real Estate One 107
Charles Reinhart Co.—commercial 49
property management. 92
realtors 105
Revel & Roll 45
Ed & Lisa Ridha, realtors, Reinhart 36
River Raisin Ragtime Revue 95
Ron's Garage 76
Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor 83
Ruth's Chris Steak House—Ann Arbor 34

SafeHouse Center 41
Saint Thomas Church 13
Savco Hospitality 62
Sesi Lincoln 5
Seva 68
John Shultz, photography 13
Sixteen Hands ..... 30, Holiday Guide
Spun Yarn Shop 30
Steve Steeb 49
StoryPoint 16
Sweetwaters Cafe 21

Temple Beth Emeth 95
Ten Thousand Villages ..... Holiday Guide
Tio's Mexican Restaurant 65
Title Boxing Club 3
Traver Village Shopping Center 8
Treasure Mart 32

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens 91
U-M Museum of Art 82
U-M Productions 86
U-M Psychology 97
U-M School of Music 91
University Musical Society 78

Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts 29
Victory Lane Quick Oil Change 95
VinBar 63

WCBN 76
Washtenaw County Historical Society 81
White Lotus Farms 17

Zingerman's Community of Businesses 70
Zion Lutheran Church 90
Zumeta, Zena 98

Patronize our advertisers &
tell them you saw their ad in the
Ann Arbor Observer

Thank You.

For advertising opportunities,
call (734) 769–3175

AnnArborObserver.com

BackPage

i spy

by Sally Bjork

"This is a tough one," wrote Mary Stefaniak. "My guess is the Cavern Club." "Tricky," agrees Alexander Marsh, identifying the vantage point for November's photo as "a weird spot in the back alleyway."

"It's the 'Circus/Cavern Club/Millenium/Gotham City'" complex, confirms Annalise Jencson. Dan Romanchik adds that our photo shows "[p]art of the sign for Ann Arbor Central Mills."

The mill opened its doors at 210 S. First St. in 1882; prior to that, the site was home to three breweries starting in 1860. In 1900, Central Mills built the current brick structure around the original wood frame of the old breweries—preserving the cellar vaults—now a unique part of the Cavern Club. "I'm going with The Blind Pig on S. First Street," writes Dave Bicknell. The Blind Pig—also originally part of the same complex—contains the mill's original safe.

The East-Side Store

We received eleven entries, eight of which correctly identified the Central Mills building on First. Our winner, drawn at random from among the correct entries is Annalise Jencson of Ann Arbor. She will enjoy her $25 gift certificate at Downtown Home & Garden—the site of our last I Spy!

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the feature and send your guess to the address below.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

An even hundred Fake Adders correctly identified the Fake Ad for St. Nicholas Senior Living on page 97 of the November issue. The ad offered a place for grandparents to stay over the holidays, which struck many people as cruel and many others as an excellent idea.

Grandma and Grandpa are nestled all snug in their beds.
This holiday season, give yourself a holiday!
Let St. Nicholas Senior Living take care of your parents or in-laws for you. Book today.
Reservations are going fast!
St. Nicholas Senior Living
2649 Briarwood Square • Ann Arbor • (734) 623-7469

One of our faithful entrants, Sonia Zawacki, wrote, "I admit that, as a fairly new grandma, I was quite insulted by your St. Nicholas Senior Living ad this month. Whaaat?! Who wouldn't want me and Papa around for the holidays? We're a barrel of laughs! Instead of frolicking around with the grandkids I'd be stuck in bed with a snoring old bear? The breakfast doesn't even look that good. I started feeling sorry for all those fun grandparents who were going to be seeing the inside of a senior living establishment at the request of their very own offspring—let the grandkids decide! But it was funny after I realized it was the Fake Ad. You got me again.

"As always, thanks for the fun!"

Our winner was Joanne Kimata. She's taking her gift certificate to Cardamom restaurant.

To enter this month's contest, find the fake ad and follow the instructions in the box below. The fake ad always contains the name of last month's winner in some form.

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy"to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on Thursday, December 10, will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:
Michael L. and Eleanor G.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 104, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 10.

Thanks!

Observer Staff

You've Got a Friend

Become an Observer Friend—or subscribe to AnnArborObserver.com—and help us continue to deliver our in-depth reporting, interesting profiles, and comprehensive calendar free to every resident of Ann Arbor.

- Subscribe to AnnArborObserver.com for $10/year and get instant access to the latest stories online.
- Become an Observer Friend for $20/year and get both print and online access, plus a free subscription to the Community Observer, our quarterly publication covering Chelsea, Dexter, and Saline.

To become an Observer Friend or subscribe to AnnArborObserver.com online, follow the directions on the homepage or call the Observer office at 734.769.3175

Winter Spring Summer or Fall, all you have to do is call—and we'll be there!

AnnArborObserver.com

You really should get out more

The Ann Arbor Observer's online events calendar offers a virtual smorgasbord of comprehensive, up-to-date listings to help you plan your day, your week, your life.

So go online-and enjoy every delicious adventure!

AnnArborObserver.com

2390 Winewoood | Ann Arbor | MI | 48103 734.769.3175

Events at a Glance

Daily ***Events*** *listings begin on p.77.* ***Films:*** *p. 89.* ***Galleries:*** *p. 97.* ***Nightspots*** *begin on p. 74.*

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Takacs Quartet, Dec. 2
- "Sibelius 150: Sibelius and Contemporaries," Dec. 3
- "An Organist's Christmas," Dec. 4
- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 4
- Kerrytown Concert House "Annual Croissant Concert," Dec. 5
- "20th Annual Evening of Sacred Song," Dec. 5
- University Choral Union *Messiah,* Dec. 5
- TubaChristmas, Dec. 6
- Dexter Community Orchestra, Dec. 6
- "Vienna/Berlin—Before/After" piano & vocal concert, Dec. 6
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert, Dec. 11
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 12
- "A Boychoir Christmas," Dec. 12
- "A Christmas Celebration" (First United Methodist Church), Dec. 12
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 13
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 13
- Ann Arbor Grail Singers, Dec. 13
- Our Own Thing Chorale, Dec. 13
- Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 15
- Ypsilanti Community Choir, Dec. 17
- Vocal Arts Ensemble, Dec. 19

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

See ***Nightspots,*** *p. 74, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs*

- Singer-songwriter Tim Grimm, Dec. 2
- U-M Groove percussion ensemble, Dec. 4
- Singer-songwriter Lee Murdock, Dec. 4
- "A Latin Holiday" (jazz), Dec. 5
- Rapper Juicy J, Dec. 8
- Michael Malis Trio (jazz), Dec. 11
- Jason Dennie Trio (acoustic folk), Dec. 12
- "Glenn Tucker's Jazz Nativity": Dec. 13
- "Paul Keller's Christmas Songs for Jazz Lovers," Dec. 18
- "Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged," Dec. 26 & 28–31

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Why Not Me? A Sammy Davis Jr. Story* (Performance Network), Dec. 1 & other dates
- *Casting Session* (Purple Rose), every Wed.–Sun. through Dec. 19
- *Dickens: An A Capella Carol* (Performance Network), Dec. 2 & other dates
- *The Wizard of Oz* (Encore), every Thurs.–Sun. through Dec. 20 & Dec. 22 & 23
- *The Nether* (U-M Basement Arts), Dec. 3–5
- *Yes, Virginia, There Is a Santa Claus* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 3–6
- *An Almost British Christmas* (Theatre Nova), every Thurs.–Sun. through Dec. 20
- *Anne of Green Gables* (EMU), Dec. 4–6 & 10–13
- *Cinderella* (EMU Dance), Dec. 4
- *The Nutcracker* (NYC Ballet broadcast), Dec. 5
- *The Nutcracker* (Ballet Chelsea), Dec. 5 & 6
- *The Nutcracker* (Academy of Russian Classical Ballet), Dec. 5
- *The Nutcracker* (Randazzo Dance Company), Dec. 5 & 6
- Michigan Playwrights Festival, Dec. 8–13
- *The Light in the Piazza* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 10–13
- *Henry IV, Part 1* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 10–13
- "Sonder" (U-M Dance), Dec. 10–12
- *Patience, or Bunthorne's Bride* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 10–13
- "3rd Annual Neo Nutcracker" (WCC), Dec. 11 & 12
- *A Christmas Story: The Musical* (Saline Varsity Blues), Dec. 11 & 12
- *The Magic Flute* (Metropolitan Opera broadcast), Dec. 12
- *Amahl & the Night Visitors* (Arbor Opera), Dec. 13
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 13
- *Henry V* (Royal Shakespeare Company broadcast), Dec. 13
- *The Last Hour* (Pure Existence Dance Company), Dec. 17 & 18
- *A Christmas Carol* (National Theatre of Scotland), Dec. 17 & other dates
- "A Tribute to the Lawrence Welk Show" (Arbor Opera), Dec. 27
- *Boogie Stomp!* (Performance Network), Dec. 31
- "New Year's Eve with the Pete Siers Duo," Dec. 31

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- "RiffTrax Live: Santa and the Ice Cream Bunny," Dec. 3
- Comic Nate Fridson, Dec. 3–5
- Comic Rodney Laney, Dec. 10–12
- Comic Andy Hendrickson, Dec. 17–19
- "UN-Home for the Holidays" comedy show, Dec. 20
- Comic Nick Gaza, Dec. 26
- Comic Joe List, Dec. 31

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Chelsea Hometown Holiday, Dec. 4–6
- Kerrytown KindleFest, Dec. 4
- Main Street Midnight Madness, Dec. 4
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 4–6
- "Christmas at the Mansion," Dec. 5 & 6
- "Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 5 & 6
- "1930s Christmas on the Farm," Dec. 5, 12, & 19
- Ypsilanti Holiday Homes Tour, Dec. 5
- Saline Holiday Parade, Dec. 5
- Hanukkah Celebration, Dec. 6
- Cobblestone Farm "Country Christmas," Dec. 6
- 7th Annual Lucy Ann Lance Hometown Christmas Radio Show, Dec. 12

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Poet Tarfia Faizullah, Dec. 2
- Poet Tung Hui-Hu, Dec. 10

Miscellaneous

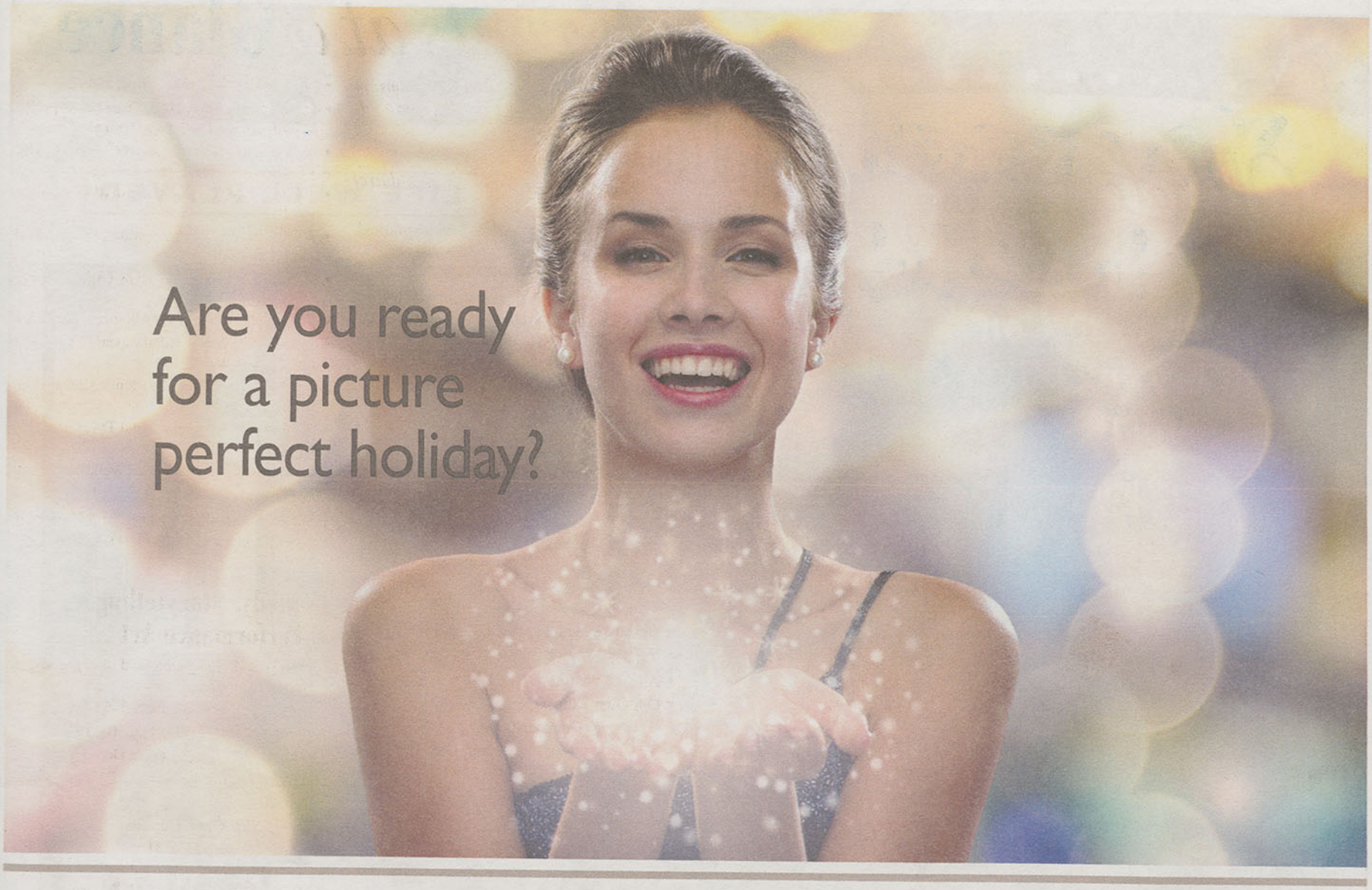
- New Year's Eve Ann Arbor Dinner Trek & Midnight Chime Ringing, Dec. 31

Family & Kids' Stuff

- *A Honey Pot of Pooh Stories* (Wild Swan), Dec. 3–5
- *Once Upon an Ever After* (Civic Theatre Junior Theatre), Dec. 4–6
- "Sing Along with Santa" (Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra), Dec. 5
- Family Hanukkah Party, Dec. 9
- "Ariel & Zoey & Eli," Dec. 12
- *The Three Musketeers* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 18–20

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "Crochet a Coral Reef: Hyperbolic Crochet," Dec. 6



Look your best for the holidays with special savings!

- Soften, lift and fill lines and wrinkles naturally with the Restylane family of products (**Restylane®**, **Restylane® Silk** and **Restylane® Lyft**) plus **Dysport** – Save up to $250* right now!
- Get longer, thicker and darker lashes with **Latisse** – Buy one 5 ml bottle get one 3 ml bottle for FREE*
- Instantly smooth and firm the skin with **YOUTHFirm®** Age Defying Peel from GlyMed Plus – Was $96 NOW just $75*

**For details visit: cprs-aa.com. Limited availability. Not valid with other discounts or offers. Some restrictions apply.*

TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT OR TO ORDER PRODUCTS, CALL TODAY!

(734) 712-2323

CENTER FOR PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY

face • body • breast • skin

CELEBRATING 20 OVER 20 YEARS

Paul Izenberg, MD
David Hing, MD
Richard Beil, MD
Daniel Sherick, MD
Rachel Streu, MD

(734) 712-2323 • cprs-aa.com • facebook.com/CPRSA2

Allstate HOME LEISURE

Holiday DREAMS SALE

LIFE WELL PLAYED

Save up to 20% off your heating bill this winter!
Up to 25% off fireplaces and gas logs
AVALON Firestyles for Life
Lopi
fireplaceXtrordinair

Purchase a pool table and receive up to $1000 worth of free game room product.

Shuffleboard tables starting at $1499

Air hockey from $669

Home bars starting at $799

Present this coupon at the time of purchase for a *free gift!*

**Valid through 12/24/15*

Allstate

Allstate Home Leisure • www.HomeLeisure.com
734-677-3278 • 3336 Washtenaw Ave. Ann Arbor, MI 48104